



# Roots and Shoots

NOVEMBER 2010

## FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

I recently had some records transferred from one doctor to another. As I was reading my doctor's note, I read "patient is a professional gardener". I had in fact told her that I was retired and did volunteer work at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Then I began to think, "Does she think I cut and blow yards on the week-end like some teenager, or, worse yet, does she believe that I am retained to assist people in landscaping their beautiful homes?" I came to realize that those of us who volunteer at BBG fit into neither group; we are special and we are fortunate.

We become special as time passes, and we begin a long and slow learning process that, hopefully, culminates in becoming an individual who has the confidence to answer questions about plants at the GPIC, or in person when someone stops us with questions. We become special by joining plant groups, working at plant sales, or taking individuals on tours, or by decorating behind the scenes, preparing food or making name tags for a function. It all matters, and it all has great value, not only from a volunteering point of view, but from the fact that as we are taught, we teach and others learn.

To me, the fact that we are fortunate is obvious. We are getting to do the very things that we love, that we do at home, not just as work, but as entertainment. We have the pleasure of sharing our enthusiasm with others who want to hear all about our interest's, of conversing with them and answering the questions of those who have a keen interest in learning all that they can about horticulture, plant nomenclature, and the special traits and characteristics of plants.

Just like you!

Bruce

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## FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT . . .

Thank you for your confidence in electing me president of the greatest volunteer group ever!

I look forward to another great Master Gardener year, and I'm sure we can accomplish this with everyone's help, which brings me to my first request – volunteer to serve as a committee chair, or, at least, serve on a committee. If you have a particular interest in a committee, please give me a call or send me an e-mail to let me know what you would like to do. My contact information is in the MG directory.

My second request is – get those volunteer hours reported. You've worked hard all year, so let's get those hours reported. I have heard some folks say they don't report their hours because they are not interested in getting an award. Even so, ACES counts on each of us to report our hours for their funding, so please report those hours. If you need help, or need someone to enter your hours electronically, please let me know.

See you at the banquet on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>!

Glenda

*Don't Miss . . .*

### **The Jefferson County Master Gardeners Graduation Banquet**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.**

The JCMGA Graduation Banquet will be held at the BBG at 6:00 P.M. on November 9, 2010. It will take the place of our regular November MG meeting. Storyteller Extraordinaire, Dolores Hydock, will be our entertainment, and Char-House will again cater the event.

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### **Farewell Luncheon for Linda Emerson**

As you may have heard by now, retirement-bound Linda Emerson's last working day is Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Several of you have expressed a desire to see and thank Linda before she leaves, and I have spoken with others who would like the opportunity to tell her goodbye, so I suggested to Linda that perhaps we could spread the word to come and have lunch with her on her last day at work in The Garden's Café, and she agreed. I have made arrangements with Tamara for lunch at noon on November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to attend, call the Café at 871-1000 and let them know you will be attending so they will have an idea of how many to prepare for (although Tamara did tell me that they would not turn anyone away). We'll order off the menu; you will pay for your own meal. Also, if you can't stay for lunch, stop by for a moment to say goodbye.

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### **BBG Volunteer Luncheon and Awards**

The BBG Volunteer Appreciation Pot-Luck Luncheon and BBG Volunteer Awards will be held on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 A.M – 1:00 P.M. For more information, contact Mary-Bestor Tickle at 414.3962 or [mgrant@bbgardens.org](mailto:mgrant@bbgardens.org).

## “Tony Talks”

I hope you got some of the much needed rain as I did last week. I have been holding off on some planting chores until I got a little rain. Now I have to come up with a whole new excuse. I hope you don't have a good excuse to miss the Graduation Banquet coming up November 9<sup>th</sup> (6:00 P.M.) because it is always a fun time. This year's event will be better than ever with some great stories from Dolores Hydock. You can check her out at the following website: [www.storypower.org](http://www.storypower.org). Our hospitality committee always arranges for a great meal at a very reasonable price, so go ahead and make plans to attend.

We are in the process of notifying the 2011 class participants of their acceptance into the next class. It looks like we will have another full class (30 participants). The class will start the second Thursday in January and go for the next 14 weeks. We will have the new agenda posted on the [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org) website by early December. Take a look when the schedule is posted in case you need to make up a missed class or get a refresher on a subject. Just let me know if you want to attend one of the classes, and as long as space is available, you are welcome to attend. I may ask you to pitch in and help with something, but there will not be any charge to attend. I do ask that you bring your own lunch if you want to come because the pot luck meals are planned for the class and presenters only and often are just enough.

Lastly, I want to personally thank Jan Smith who allowed Tricia Farris to take a year's sabbatical from the newsletter editing duties. She has done a great job with very little help from me (none, actually). This will be the last newsletter for her since we don't do a December edition, and Tricia will resume editorial duties with the January issue. Please tell Jan thank you when you see her next, or drop her an email of appreciation.

Again, I hope to see many of you at this year's banquet. It is hard to believe another year has gone by (number 5 for me). We often start to think about all those things we are thankful for as we reach this month of the year. Working with all of you is the highlight of my job, and I am truly thankful for all you do to make the Jefferson County Master Gardener program so very successful and my job so enjoyable. Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and Holiday season.

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### Treasurer's Report

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
TREASURER'S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2010  
SUBMITTED BY: BLAIR COX, TREASURER

Balance Forward: 9-27-10 . . . . \$11,889.79  
Received: . . . . . \$00.00  
Disbursements: . . . . . -\$71.40  
Ending Balance: 10-24-10: . . . \$11,818.39

## Daylily Presentation

The Central Alabama Daylily Society will be hosting speakers on Sunday, November 14th at 2:00 P.M. at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The speakers are Ted and Randy Preuss from Monticello, MS, presenting "The Wide, Wide World of River Road Daylilies". They are focused on hybridizing for the elusive blue daylily and will be showing their hybridizing program from this past season. Ted is a retired county extension agent and very knowledgeable about growing great plants. There will be a plant auction after the presentation. This is a free event and open to the public.

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### Volunteers Needed St. Martin's in the Pines

St. Martin's in the Pines is in search of volunteers to assist the elders living in "The Cottages at St. Martin's" with container gardening. There are two Cottages with three containers in each that need seasonal plantings. Please contact Jennifer Sholund Ray at 205.314.4204 or at [jray@stmartins.ws](mailto:jray@stmartins.ws) if you are interested in helping. St Martin's in the Pines is located at 4149 Montevallo Road, Birmingham, AL 35210.

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## WANTED

### Fall and Winter Garden Pictures for *Over the Mountain Journal*

If you have a nice fall/winter vegetable garden – something photogenic, please contact Michael Hansen, Public Relations & Marketing Coordinator, Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens at 414-3960 or [mhansen@bbgardens.org](mailto:mhansen@bbgardens.org). Michael would like some photos for *Over the Mountain Journal*.

## Master Gardeners Car Tag Has Been Approved



Thanks to the diligence of Kathie Bass, MGNA, we now have **approval** for the new Master Gardener car tag! The Department of Revenue gave us the go ahead. Please help us promote this new plate.

We need – 1,000 commitment-to-purchase forms. (Ask for these at your local DMV, and pre-purchase the tag.)

We have – 12 months to get these 1,000 promises.

We can – start seeing these MG tags on our cars as soon as the 1,000 promises are received.

We will – give half of the proceeds to the AMGA-Horticultural scholarship and half to the MG Program.

You can – sign up now, even if it's not your renewal month; pre-purchase is allowed, and gets us to 1,000 sooner.

You will – receive your plate in the mail as soon as the 1,000 minimum promises are received. Tell all your friends!

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## The Southern Environmental Center



The Southern Environmental Center (SEC) educates individuals and organizations on ways to build more livable communities. Our focus is on urban environmental issues, including air and water quality, sprawl and transportation. The SEC manages an award-winning educational facility visited by 20,000 people annually.

Volunteer opportunities are available at roughly 5 community gardens located throughout Birmingham. The gardens, or ecoscapes, are at Brown Springs (located near Ruffner Mountain), North Birmingham (located down the street from Carraway Hospital), Samuelson and EcoFarm (located near the golf course in Eastlake) and Ecoscape (located on the Birmingham Southern College campus). These are long-term projects which consist of amending the soil, building up raised beds and filling them with organic matter to improve soil health, painting and preserving the gazebos, and repairing the paths and garden borders. Short term projects, such as weeding, watering garden beds, and pruning leggy growth, are ongoing.

I am flexible when it comes to times for our wonderful, precious volunteers to come help out. If you'd like to do a group project, I can set that up, or if you'd like a list of things to do and work at your own pace, I can set that up too. Contact me, Deirdre Clark at 205.226.7760 or [dclark@bsc.edu](mailto:dclark@bsc.edu).

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## Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2010

The JCMGA October meeting was called to order by President Bruce Steele at 10:00 A.M. in the Ireland Room at the BBG. He introduced new members Carma Robinson, Phyllis Love and Charlotte Patton. The September minutes and Treasurer's report were approved as printed in *Roots and Shoots*.

Dianne Brannon reported on progress at the Glenwood School landscaping and greenhouse projects. She reiterated the need for plants and related items such as plastic pots and other items. Mike Rushing generously donated a horse trough that will be used as a raised bed. There are plans to perhaps have a plant sale as a fundraiser. The facility primarily serves a community of adults with autism.

The JCMGA Graduation Banquet will be held at BBG at 6:00 P.M. on November 9, 2010. That will be our regular November meeting. Storyteller Extraordinaire, Dolores Hydock, will be our entertainment. Thanks to Nancy Nash, Char-House will again cater. The cost will be \$12.00 per person. Send your check to Bruce Steele by October 31. Your check will be your reservation.

Mary Hooper, long-time Master Gardener and friend, passed away on September 28<sup>th</sup> from heart complications. A memorial service is to be held at Lakeside Baptist Church on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. Master Gardeners are asked to assist the ladies of the church with refreshments.

Nora O'Connor gave a detailed report on items from the state level. She stressed the importance of reading *Garden Pathways*, the Alabama Master Gardener Association quarterly newsletter, for detailed information on items such as the Master Gardener license plate, Stan Roark workshops on use of educational materials and the upcoming state conference in Mobile next March.

The group was reminded that pre-2010 hours will expire on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Glenda Dicks and Tony Glover will assist in entering these hours where necessary.

Bruce announced the Shirley McNiece Horticulture Conference at BBG October 24-26. Sponsored by the Garden Club of America, admission to the lectures is free, but tickets must be picked up at The Scribbler on Church Street in Crestline Village.

Nominating Committee Chairman Camille Becker presented the following slate of officers for 2010 for consideration:

President – Glenda Dicks

Vice President – Fletcher Harvey

Secretary – Ann Thomas

Treasurer – Roger Clarke

The slate was elected by acclamation and will be installed at the November 9<sup>th</sup> banquet.

Other members of the Nominating Committee were Mitzi Owen and Ruth Reichwein.

The dates for the Spring Plant Sale will be April 14-17, 2011, location to be determined.

An *Easy, Healthy Fruits Workshop* will be held October 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 A.M. to noon in the Hodges Room at BBG. The cost will be \$10.00.

Harold Deason reported on plans for the 2012 State Conference to be held in Birmingham. He emphasized the need for volunteers on all committees. He also suggested that we pay our 2011 dues even a bit early and suggested considering signing up for the Speaker's Bureau. The *Roots and Shoots* deadline for the November issue will be October 25, 2010.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Harvey

For Susan Jackson, Secretary, JCMGA

## November ACES Index

*The index is composed of information found on, or accessed from, the ACES website on November 1st.*

Percentage of samples from Cullman County, a poultry producing area, which currently test very high or extremely high for phosphorus: **58**

Percentage of samples from Perry County which currently test high or extremely high: **10**

Month and year a series of WPA-era murals depicting Alabama's agricultural development was unveiled at the Alabama State Fair: **October 1939**

Date the murals will return to Birmingham as part of an exhibit sponsored by the Birmingham Historical Society, the Birmingham Public Library and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Program: **November 7, 2010**

Percentage of Alabama currently undergoing an extreme drought: **12**

Number of years since cotton in Alabama has traded at its current price of a dollar per pound: **15**

Number of counties Alabama Governor Bob Riley named at Drought Warning level due to lack of rainfall and the low probability for any significant near term relief: **23**

Number he declared are facing a drought: **67**

Number of inches of rain Montgomery has received so far this year: **32 ½**

Number it had received by this time last year: **45 ½**

Number of acres in Alabama reported to have burned in the last 30 days on October 21, 2010, according to the Alabama Forestry Commission: **7,100**

Year migratory bee-keepers began reporting sharp declines in their bee colonies, a phenomenon scientists named Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD): **2006**

Drop in the number of managed honey bee colonies during the winters of 2006/2007: **31.8%**

Drop in 2007/2008: **35.8%**

Percentage of the U.S. diet in which honey bee pollination is involved: **35%**

Annual monetary value (in billions) of honey bees as commercial pollinators in the U.S.: **15-20**

Number of enclosed buildings which compose the Shitake Mushroom research facilities at Alabama A &M University: **2**

Number of logs the 12' X 48' Shitake mushroom production house holds: **600**

Number of months bedbugs can live without feeding: **4 – 12**

Minimum water temperature (in degrees) required to destroy bedbugs in clothing: **140**

Number of weeks required to destroy them in clothing through freezing: **2**

Number of Cholera cases reported in Haiti as of October 28, 2010: **4,722**

Number of deaths: **303**

Average number of deaths annually due to cholera worldwide according to the World Health Organization (WHO):  
**100,000 – 120,000**

Percentage of cholera cases which can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts, according to the WHO: **80**

## Gardening Calendar

### November

**FRUITS AND NUTS:** Select sites for plantings. Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.  
**SHRUBS:** Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.  
**LAWNS:** Some homeowners like lawn paints. Have you thought about having a green lawn this winter? Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.  
**ROSES:** Get rose planting underway. Use a soil test as a basis for fertilization. Look for new varieties.  
**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS:** Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, anchusa, and candytuft. Get sweet peas into the ground.  
**BULB:** Continue spring bulb planting. Put lilies of the valley in a shady place.  
**MISCELLANEOUS:** Plant screen plantings for privacy on the patio.  
**VEGETABLE SEED:** Plant cabbage and lettuce in the coldframe.

### December

**FRUITS AND NUTS:** Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes. Select budwood. Start dormant pruning of established fruits. Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree. Put on dormant oil sprays for scale.  
**SHRUBS:** Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.  
**LAWNS-**control wild garlic, chickweed, Poa annua, dandelion, and other weeds. Read label on each can of weed killer used.  
**ROSES:** Add plants to rose garden. Mulch all plantings.  
**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS:** Plant hardy annual seed without delay Have you tried violas?  
**BULBS:** Continue spring bulb planting.  
**MISCELLANEOUS:** Shrubs trees, and indoor plants make excellent gifts.  
**TEMPERATE FRUITS AND NUTS:** Pecans, peaches, pears, apples, plums, apricots, blueberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, hickory, walnuts, dewberries, strawberries.  
**SEMI-TROPICAL FRUITS:** Figs, persimmons, pomegranates, mulberries, satsumas, kumquats.  
**HARDY ANNUALS:** California poppy, snapdragon, calendula, coreopsis, candytuft, gaillardia, gypsophila, larkspur, poppies, stocks, sweet peas, verbena, dianthus, pansies.  
**HALF-HARDY ANNUALS:** Ageratum, alyssum, celosia, phlox, petunia, sunflower, salpiglossis, thunbergia.  
**TENDER ANNUALS-**Godetia, balsam, nicotiana, portulaca, slavia, zinnia, phlox (Drummond), periwinkle, nasturtium, four o'clock, cockscomb, begonia, coleus, marigold, impatiens.  
**HARDY VEGETABLES:** Peas, turnips, mustard, rape, collards, kale, beets, carrots, spinach, onions, radish.  
**TENDER VEGETABLES:** Butter beans, snap beans, pole beans, squash, field peas, watermelons, cucumbers, cantaloupes, corn, New Zealand spinach.  
**HEAT-LOVING VEGETABLES:** Okra, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, pumpkins, field peas, sweet potatoes.  
**ROOTS AND TUBERS:** Asparagus, horseradish, artichoke, Irish potatoes, onions.  
**ROOT CROPS:** Beets, carrots, turnips, radish, salsify.

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## Volunteer Opportunities at a Glance

*The information is listed in the following order: date of volunteer opportunity/ volunteer opportunity/ venue/ time/ contact person/ contact information*

**Turkey Creek Nature Preserve** Pinson Weds – Suns 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Taylor Steele 680.4116 or [tsteele@bsc.edu](mailto:tsteele@bsc.edu)

**Junior Master Gardeners** Aldridge Botanical Gardens Vasha Rosenblum 910.3211 or [vashan1@bellsouth.net](mailto:vashan1@bellsouth.net)

**GPIC Helpline** BBG [contact for date and times] Tony Glover at 879.6964, x15 or [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu)

**EPIC School MG Project** EPIC School, Southside [contact for date and times] Whitney Saunders at [whitneysaunders@gmail.com](mailto:whitneysaunders@gmail.com)

**Children's Garden at the United Cerebral Palsy Center** [contact for details] Karen Mitchell [karen35216@bellsouth.net](mailto:karen35216@bellsouth.net)

**The Southern Environmental Center** [various locations] Work in community gardens. [contact for dates and times] Deirdre Hamilton 205.226.7760 or [dclark@bsc.edu](mailto:dclark@bsc.edu)

**2012 State MG Conference in Birmingham** [Ask Harold for details.] Harold Deason 205.68.6251 or [vice-pres@jeffcomg.org](mailto:vice-pres@jeffcomg.org).

**Glenwood School Landscaping and Greenhouse Projects** [Contact Diane for details.] Dianne Brannon 205.967.6636 or [dbrannon3553@charter.net](mailto:dbrannon3553@charter.net).

- Nov 7 **Southern Turkey Tales** Volunteers needed for ticketing and hospitality. Contact Mary-Bestor at 414.3962 or [mgrant@bbgardens.org](mailto:mgrant@bbgardens.org).
- Nov 11 **Kaul Wildflower Garden Volunteer Workday** 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Contact John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org) or 414.3985
- Nov 20 **Kaul Wildflower Garden Volunteer Workday** 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Contact John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org) or 414.3985
- Nov 25 **Kaul Wildflower Garden Volunteer Workday** 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Contact John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org) or 414.3985
- Dec 9 **Holly Day Magic** Help children ages 5-11 create holiday crafts Contact Mary-Bestor at 414.3962 or [mgrant@bbgardens.org](mailto:mgrant@bbgardens.org).
- Dec 10 **Holly Day Magic** Help children ages 5-11 create holiday crafts Contact Mary-Bestor at 414.3962 or [mgrant@bbgardens.org](mailto:mgrant@bbgardens.org).
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### Calendar of Events for November 2010

*The calendar information is presented in the following order: Date/Event/Time/Location/ Contact Information*

- Chocolate Seed to Sweet** [Sept 4<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>] Atlanta Botanical Gardens Atlanta, Georgia  
<http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events-classes/events>
- Nov 3 **Native American Pottery Workshop** 10:00 A.M. – Noon, or from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. Aldridge Botanical Gardens Hoover, Alabama [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com)
- Nov 6 **Moss Rock Festival** [also November 7<sup>th</sup>] Hoover Preserve Hoover, Alabama  
[http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option.com\\_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,196/func,details/](http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option.com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,196/func,details/)
- Nov 6 **Class with Glass: Holiday Fused Ornaments** 9:00 A.M. – Noon. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>
- Nov 7 **Hypertufa Workshop** 1:00 P.M. Petals from the Past Jemison, Alabama  
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- Nov 9 **Open House for the New Orangery** 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. Petals from the Past Jemison, Alabama  
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- Nov 11 **Flirt with Fall – Linda Franzo Cooking Class** 10:30 A.M. Petals from the Past Jemison, Alabama  
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- Nov 12 **Kiku Matsuri Chrysanthemum Festival** [also Nov 13<sup>th</sup>] Bellengrath Gardens Asheville, North Carolina  
<http://www.bellingrath.org/mum-festival-family-day.html>
- Nov 13 **Fine Crafts Classic** [juried show] 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. [also Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.] BBG  
<http://www.bbgardens.org/plant-group.php>
- Nov 14 **The Central Alabama Daylily Society Presents Ted and Randy Preuss** 2:00 P.M. BBG  
<http://www.bbgardens.org/plant-group.php>
- Nov 14 **Cooking Demo with Chef Chris Hastenings** 2:00 P.M. Petals from the Past Jemison, Alabama  
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- Nov 16 **Book Signing with Vince Dooley** 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. [Reception and Q&A 5:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.] Aldridge Botanical Gardens Hoover, Alabama [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com)
- Nov 27 **Holiday Greenery Sale** 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Aldridge Botanical Gardens Hoover, Alabama  
[www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com)
- Dec 4 **Christmas Open House** [also from 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. on December 5<sup>th</sup>] 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Petals from the Past Jemison, Alabama  
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- Dec 8 **Red Mountain Greenery Sale** 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. BBG Auditorium <http://www.bbgardens.org/plant-group.php>
- Dec 9 **Holly Day Magic** [for children age 5-11 years] [also on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>] 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. BBG  
<http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>