Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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Amanda Foshee, Junior Board President

Our Mission
Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens promotes public knowledge of plants, gardens & the environment; & receives, raises & administers resources for these purposes.

Our Vision
The vision of Birmingham Botanical Gardens is to be one of the nation’s preeminent botanical gardens.

Staff

Main ......................................................... 205.414.3950
Fred Spicer ............................................. Executive Director & CEO
Stephanie Banks .................................. Director of Finance
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Taylor Steele .................................... Volunteer Coordinator
Ragan Stone ...................................... Special Events Coordinator
Rona Walters ................................ Membership Assistant

On the Cover
Fred Spicer, executive director & CEO, leads a walking tour for the Junior Board through the Kaul Wildflower Garden. To get involved and to learn more about the Junior Board visit www.bbgardens.org/juniorboard.

The Garden Dirt is the newsletter of Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The Garden Dirt is published six times a year to foster awareness & support events, services, & significant programs of Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. We welcome your comments & address corrections. Please contact:

Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Editor, Andrew B. Krebbs, director of marketing & membership
2612 Lane Park Road
Birmingham, AL 35223
205.414.3950 or akrebbs@bbgardens.org
bbgardens.org

Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens practices a policy of equal opportunity & equal access to services for all persons regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, orientation or sex. Birmingham Botanical Gardens is a facility of Birmingham Park & Recreation Board. The deadline for the July/August issue is May 15.
Dear Friends:

I hope you made it to Spring Plant Sale last month! If you did, you were among the record-setting crowds that joined in the festival atmosphere under the tents and made it one of our best sales yet. Special thanks go out to all of our customers and to Brookwood Village, Royal Cup and Brio Tuscan Grille, our major sponsors. Thanks also to those who came out for our Earth Day at The Gardens’ USO Tribute Show. If you volunteered at one of the events, I hope I thanked you personally (I tried!), but if I missed you, please know that our events are only possible because of you. So thanks a lot!

Please keep The Gardens in mind and make sure to come out for our Flicks Among the Flowers series of movies. Make a special date-night out of it and enjoy a great movie on the Formal Garden lawn in front of our Conservatory. And I hope to see you at our rescheduled Earth Day at The Gardens event on May 31. While weather forced the event’s postponement, it won’t cancel Alabama’s longest-running Earth Day celebration.

As the construction projects around our perimeter begin to wind down, we’ll be winding up with a series of special projects of our own that will add pedestrian amenities and provide greater connectivity between The Gardens, nearby villages, and our animal friends at the Birmingham Zoo. It’s an exciting time for Birmingham’s free public garden!

We had copious April rain, which helped to keep the pollen at bay, but made for many gardening challenges at the same time. Planting in the mud isn’t really the best way to perform that task, and I hope my herbs and vegetables will soon rebound from the floods. After getting off to a rather slow start after a colder-than-normal winter, plants finally seem to be back on schedule now, and there are many blooms still to come as spring transitions to summer. Now if I can just get all of mine planted...

See you in The Gardens,

Fred Spicer
Executive Director & CEO

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TWO ATTRACTIONS, ONE DESTINATION

Message from Brian Barr, Board President

When folks are asked what some of their favorite attractions are in Birmingham, The Gardens and the Zoo are two very common answers. Our community is very fortunate to have these fine facilities which both grade well nationally in any rating of best-in-class. Too, we are very fortunate that they sit side-by-side; after all, we all enjoy two-for-one shopping - why not two-for-one attractions?

Many have contributed to the recently completed road improvements that the Alabama Department of Transportation has made possible on our western border of Cahaba Road. These improvements, for which we are all thankful, have helped us in many ways. Two of which are the facelift to one entire side of our acreage, another being the instant connectivity improvements these enhancements facilitate between The Gardens and the Zoo.

Long overdue, our connectivity to the Zoo is an enhancement to our entire community. Imagine driving to our Gardens, enjoying a beautiful day with family or friends and then deciding to enjoy the wonderments that the Zoo has to offer. For example, starting a great day enjoying the grace of the giraffes with high interest in capping your day off with a stroll through our Dunn Formal Rose Garden. Prior to the Cahaba Road improvements, enjoying both attractions with a single park of your car was not possible. But now it will be!

We owe thanks to many for facilitating this – in addition to the Alabama Department of Transportation our Executive Director & CEO Fred Spicer and the Zoo’s Executive Director Bill Foster have been instrumental in making this terrific new feature of two of Birmingham’s greatest assets a priority. Thanks to them both!
Members-only Day Trip
Stone Hollow Farmstead in Harpersville, Alabama

Join Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens on a Day Trip to Stone Hollow Farmstead in Harpersville, Ala. on Thursday, June 4, 2015. The cost of the trip is $80/person. The fee includes Charter Bus transportation, special guided tour of the farmstead, a special cheese tasting, lunch from The Pantry and a canning and preserving class. At the end of the class, participants will take home their finished product. This trip is open to all members of Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Each member is allowed to bring one non-member on the trip. The bus should leave The Gardens at 8 a.m. and be back no later than 5 p.m.

Registration can be found online at www.bbgardens.org/membertravel. Payment must be received by May 28, 2015. All attendees must ride the bus and get on the bus at The Gardens. No one is allowed to follow separately in their car.

Description of Stone Hollow Farmstead:
You may recognize Stone Hollow Farmstead from their popular restaurant, The Pantry, located in Crestline Village. They also produce an artisan line of goat cheeses that can be found at Western Supermarkets, Publix and Whole Foods among other locations.

Florida leucothoe (*Agarista populifolia*) is a large, spreading, irregularly-shaped, broad-leaf evergreen shrub (right) native to the Coastal Plain of SC, GA, AL and into central and panhandle FL, where it grows in swampy forests. Formerly in the genus *Leucothoe*, its current status makes it the northern-most member of an otherwise tropical genus, and more closely related to *Pieris* than *Leucothoe*. It is a common feature in many local gardens and a problem-free plant in shaded locations and acid soils (even clay) with good moisture content. Well-established plants have surprising drought tolerance.

The medium- to olive-green leaves have a dull shine and present an appearance much different than many other broadleaf evergreens (below top). Growing as a natural, semi-opaque umbrella, pipesstem (a traditional name that refers to its hollow stems) reaches 10’ and more over time, with a similar spread. No amount of pruning, however skilled, can make this plant into a tidy shape but to me the shaggy, arching habit is charmingly rustic. The small white flowers (upside-down urns with narrow necks (below bottom) have a sweet fragrance which is very alluring to bumblebees, whose long tongues easily reach the nectaries within. Heavily borne in mid- to late May, they represent among the last shrub flowers in this copious season. Small brown fruit capsules are abundantly produced but seedlings are scarce in cultivation.

Except for the removal of dead wood (which may seem ever-present) pruning should follow flowering as those buds are produced mainly on strong-growing shoots in the summer of the previous year. These shoots often emanate directly from bare lower stems but they also occur within the canopy, from buds just below flowering sections of upper and outer stems. Growing upright at first, the shoots will arch over toward the tips and it is here that flower buds will be produced. Curiously, seed production seems to exhaust the stems where it occurs: heavily-fruiting branch sections frequently die the following year.

Some gardeners disdain irregularity in plant form, but I’m a fan of this sometimes unkempt but charming grower. I also like ‘Taylor’s Treasure,’ a dwarf form sold as Leprachaun™, with half-size leaves. A plant at Birmingham Botanical Gardens is handsome and rounded, 4x4.5’ after 10 years.
The Roots of the Annual Spring Plant Sale are Our Volunteers

Taylor Steele, volunteer coordinator

As another successful Spring Plant Sale finishes at The Gardens, we’re grateful for a corps of dedicated volunteers and plant nursery vendors that assure excellent quality and tremendous variety in the plants sold. Our plant group volunteers make a concerted effort not to duplicate the selection of plants offered and there are always ample choices to please the most discerning plant enthusiast or passionate gardener.

Volunteers, Master Gardeners and Plant Societies run sale booths and eagerly await shoppers on a mission - searching for favorite natives, annuals and perennials as well as unusual and distinctive selections which are often difficult to find at local garden centers. People new to gardening disappointed with the lack of knowledgeable sales personnel at some retail centers are always delighted with the invaluable information our volunteers share with our patrons. Many of our patrons have been coming to the sale for well over 20 years and know that the plants purchased, along with the bazaar-like atmosphere of the sale, are reasons to return.

April marked the 46th year The Gardens’ volunteer corps has been selling plants. Predictably, a lot has changed over that time, especially the scale, and volume of plants sold. To understand the roots of the volunteer sale, you would need to go back to May 2 & 3, 1969. For two days, The Women’s Auxiliary of Birmingham Botanical Society hosted A Garden Fiesta: Bazaar-Plant Sale, and Outdoor Living Exhibit. The plant sale included varieties of petunias, marigolds, ferns, African violets and wild flower plant (commonly known as native plants). The Garden Fiesta also included a bazaar area with exhibitors showcasing everything from antiques and bird feeders, flower containers and garden equipment.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens’ Spring Plant Sale utilized 280+ volunteers (68% Master Gardeners), accrued over 6,000 volunteer hours, and sold plants to over 6,500 people from all over the state. Although the sale venue changes from time to time, the enduring tradition of Birmingham Botanical Gardens’ annual plant sale and its’ volunteers will sustain this community event for years to come.

Proceeds from the sale of these plants supply some of the funds necessary to support The Gardens’ educational mission, as well as provide needed resources to continue outstanding education programs to gardeners of all ages.

To learn more about volunteering at The Gardens, contact Taylor Steele, volunteer coordinator, at tsteele@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3962.
adult&family classes

To register or to read class descriptions visit www.bbgardens.org/classes or call 205.414.3950.

FLORA PHOTOGRAPHY
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Every 3rd Sunday | 3 - 5 p.m.
Free, $5 donation suggested
Ages 12 and up

HERB WALK
Instructor: Phyllis Light
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Wednesday, May 27 | 11-1 p.m.
$10 Members | $12 Non-Members

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL: MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Saturday, June 6 | 9-noon
Saturday, June 13 | 9-noon
$100 Members | $120 Non-members

TANGLES INSPIRED BY THE GARDENS
Instructor: Darla Williamson
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Saturday, June 6 | 10-4 p.m.
$125 Members | $150 Non-Members

WATER FEATURES OF THE GARDENS
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Saturday, June 20 | 9-noon
$65 members | $75 non-members

SEASONAL SERIES
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Saturday, July 11 | 9-noon
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
$65 Members | $75 Non-members

adult&family classes

Birmingham Rose Show
May 9-10

Spencer Lecture
May 12

Alabama Bonsai Society Show
May 16-17

Birmingham Fern Society
Ferns from the Beginning to the End
May 20-21

Flicks Among the Flowers
May 13, June 24, July 15

Earth Day at The Gardens
May 31 (rescheduled)

Botanical Bash
May 28

Gross Out Camps
Starting June 1 - Registration Open

To register or to read class descriptions visit www.bbgardens.org/classes or call 205.414.3950.
Children’s Summer Camps

Programs are designed to actively promote your child’s natural sense of creativity and discovery with fun learning experiences in the unmatched setting at Birmingham Botanical Gardens! This summer, we are growing global to give your camper the chance to travel through nature exploration, science, art, cooking, yoga, architecture, children’s literature and imagination while building skills for teamwork and making friendships.

Each camp is limited to 20 children except preschool camps, which are limited to 15 children. Teachers are certified or otherwise qualified. For more information, contact Education Program Coordinator Ellen Hardy at 205.414.3953 or ehardy@bbgardens.org.

Register online at www.bbgardens.org/summercamps or 205.414.3950.

**MORNING CAMPS**
9 – 1 p.m.
$152 Members*| $190 Non-Members.

- **Enchanted Gardens**
  4 and 5 year olds. June 1 - 5.

- **Botanista Fashion**
  K-6th. June 8 – 12.

- **Growing Through Yoga**

- **Music in the World Around Us**
  $122 Members* | $152 Non-Members

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$122 Members* | $152 Non-Members

**Camp Birmingham Botanical Gardens:**
**Young Naturalists**

**Growing Through Yoga**

**Gardening in Wonderland:**
**Designing and Modeling**

**AFTERNOON CAMPS**
2 - 4 p.m.
$76 Members* | $95 Non-Members.

- **World Passport Explorers**
  K-6th. June 8 – 12.

- **Over the Rainbow**
  4 and 5 year olds. July 13 - 17.

**URBAN FARM CAMP - ALL DAY**
June 22-26 • 8 - 4 p.m.
$300 Members*| $325 Non-Members.

Urban Farm Camp gives rising 4-6 graders a chance to grow fresh food for themselves and others and learn about the food networks that feed a city.

*Hydrangea Level Members & above

**FRESH AIR FAMILY: GROSS OUT CAMPS**
$200 members (The Gardens, FAF), $225 non-members
Hours: 9-5 p.m. Before and after care $25.

**IF IT'S GROSS WE'VE GOT IT!**
Join expert naturalists as we explore the best of the worst earth has to offer. All in a safe atmosphere. We will see reptiles, macroinvertebrates, bugs, stinky plants and more. Activities include hikes, creek stomping, crafts, journaling, and live animal demonstrations with birds and snakes!

To register, please go to www.GrossOutCamp.org

- Grades 1-4: June 1-5, June 15-19, July 6-10, July 15-17, July 27-31
- Grades 1-7: June 8-12
- Grades 5-7: July 20-24, June 29-July 3

**EARTH DAY AT THE GARDENS**
Celebrating Community Gardens
May 31, 2015
1-5 p.m. • Free Admission

bbgardens.org/earthday

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May 31, 2015
1-5 p.m. • Free Admission

bbgardens.org/earthday
The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program is an international youth gardening program of the university Cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, hands-on group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment and cultivate the mind.

Children can get involved in exploring their world through meaningful activities that encourage leadership development, personal pride and responsibility, and community involvement. Youth involved in the program develop critical thinking skills and the ability to identify community concerns and take action to address them through individual group projects.

Classes may be purchased as a package for $320. Ages 6-12 years old.

**Junior Master Gardener 4: Landscape Horticulture**
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless  
Saturday, June 20 | 9 - noon  
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom  
$45 per class

**Junior Master Gardener 5: Vegetables & Herbs**
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless  
Saturday, July 18 | 9 - noon  
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom  
$45 per class

**Junior Master Gardener 6: Insects & Diseases**
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless  
Saturday, August 15 | 9 - noon  
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom  
$45 per class

**Junior Master Gardener 7: Life Skills and Career**
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless  
Saturday, September 19 | 9 - noon  
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom  
$45 per class

**Junior Master Gardener 8: Fruits & Nuts**
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless  
Saturday, October 17 | 9 - noon  
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom  
$45 per class

**Junior Master Gardener 9: Make-up session**
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless  
Saturday, November 21 | 9 - noon  
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom  
$45 per class

To register visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes) or call 205.414.3950.

*Butterfly Education & Awareness Day*

**June 13**  
10-2 P.M.  
*FREE ADMISSION*

[bbgardens.org/classes](http://bbgardens.org/classes)
THYME TO READ

June 2:
Shadows in the Vineyard: The True Story of the Plot to Poison the World’s Greatest Wine by Maximillian Porter

July 7:
Seeds of Reprisal by J. Somerville Park

Join us in The Library at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss a fun book pertaining to gardening, plants or the environment. Contact Director of Library Services Hope Long at 205.414.3931 or hlong@bbgardens.org for more information or to get involved.

THE BROWN BAG
LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

May 13
Who, me? Garden?? Debunking your preconceived notions of what’s involved in gardening.

May 27
Luscious Lawns Growing and maintaining a healthy lawn takes less effort than you might think.

June 10
Drink Your Garden Savor the fruits of your labor. Use botanicals to enhance flavor and add depth to your perfect cocktail.

June 24
Ideas to Actualities Visually inspired? Discover how to transform that look to fit your space.

July 8
The Terrific Trio! Compost, soil and mulch – unearth what they are and how to use them properly.

JULY 22
The Understory No sun, no problem! Learn to love the shade and the plants that grow there.

August 5
What's Bugging You? The ACES Diagnostic Plant Lab helps identify problems and give care.

August 19
Curb Appeal Instantly add curb value, interest, and charm to your landscape.

September 2
Tools of the Trade See what tools the pros use and how to maintain them for peak performance.

September 16
Backyard Habitats Transform a backyard for the birds and the bees, start by adding flowers and more.

October 7
Overgrown & Out of Control Find out how and when to whack it back, cut it down and clean it up.

October 21
Let There be Light! Enhance beauty, provide safety and enjoy your outdoor spaces after dark.

FLICKS AMONG THE FLOWERS

May 13
Jurassic Park

June 24
Ghostbusters

July 15
Top Gun

Formal Garden in front of Conservatory

FREE ADMISSION

8 p.m. • gates open at 6 p.m.

Cash bar • Concessions

Don’t forget your blanket.

Make it a date night or bring a group of friends!

Sorry, no pets allowed or outside alcoholic beverages.

bbgardens.org/classes

special thanks to
Over the Mountain Journal & Lane Parke

bbgardens.org/flicks
MAY

* FRUITS AND NUTS – Continue spray program. Keep grass from around trees and strawberries. Peaches and apples can still be budded.
* SHRUBS – Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks. Don’t spray with oil emulsions when temperature is above 85 °F.
* LAWNS – Now is the best time to start lawns from seed. Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying. Keep established lawns actively growing by watering fertilizing and mowing. Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.
* ROSES – Spray or dust for insects and diseases. Fertilize monthly with complete fertilizer or rose special. Container-grown plants in flower may be planted. Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.
* ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS – Keep old flower heads 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 – Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done. Avoid drying out new shrub, tree and lawn plantings.
* VEGETABLE SEED – Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables. Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and celery in coldframe for fall garden.
* VEGETABLE PLANTS – Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and sweet potatoes.

JUNE

* 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 other 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 flower heads 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.

Gardening “TIPS” Calendar

Gerlach Plant Information Center Display
inside the Garden Center

for the months of May & June:

GROWING TOMATOES

MEMBERS-ONLY CLASS

As a current member, you have the exclusive opportunity to attend members-only classes for FREE.

PRUNING: TECHNIQUES, OUTCOMES & DESIGN INFLUENCES

Thursday, August 20
6-8 p.m.

Instructor: Fred Spicer
Executive Director & CEO

Pruning and training of plants is an essential part of garden development and maintenance, yet even savvy gardeners approach these basic tasks with a mixture of ignorance and trepidation. Using before and after images of selected plants- with recent updates - Spicer tracks the establishment of his home garden, illustrating basic pruning tools, methods and techniques - and the plants’ responses - along the way. You’ll learn not only the “how-to” but the “why to” as he shows how each approach works to enhance the garden’s overall design.

Member classes are not available to the public. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.bbgardens.org/classes or call 205.414.3950.

For more information, see www.aces.edu or call the Plant Hotline at 800.644.4458.

Courtesy of

www.aces.edu
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Advisor Level
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Jones, Jr.
The Forman Foundation

Benefactor Level
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Mrs. Lucille R. Thompson

*Deceased

The Perennial Society
As of February 28, 2015

Mr. & Mrs. Edgar G. Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Balliet
Ms. Camille A. Becker
Mrs. Lucille S. Beeson *
Peggy Bonfield & Orrin Ford
D. Joseph & Ida C. Burns *
Mary Carolyn Gibbs Cleveland
Suzanne G. Clishy
Mrs. Martha Stone Cobb Daniel *
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama
The Dunn-French Family
Dr. John D. Elmore*
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Mr. F. Lewter Ferrell, Jr. *
Mr. R.R. Herbst *
Mrs. Jimmie Hess *
Mr. J. Ernest Hill & Mrs. Ora Lee Hill *
Mrs. Jane Hinds
Fay B. Ireland
Mr. George L. Jenkins
Hugh & Bobbe Kaul *
Ms. Pamela Kaul *
Andrew Krebbs
Fran Lawlor
Dr. Bodil Lindin-Lamon*
Hope Long
Dr. Michael E. Malone
Ms. Louise T. McAvoy *
Mrs. Mary Jean Morawetz
Mr. Philip Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Murray, Jr.
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Dr. & Mrs. A. I. Perley *
Steve & LeAnne Porter
Mrs. Carol P. Poynor
Mrs. Dorothy L. Renniker *
Deborah & John Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Spencer, III *
Mr. Frederick R. Spicer, Jr.
Mr. Douglas Arant Stockham
Dr. Wendell H. Taylor, Sr. *
Mrs. Barbara D. Thorne *
Mrs. Carolyn D. Tynes *
Mrs. Ann H. "Nancy" Warren *
Mrs. Robert Wells
Anonymous

*Deceased
memorials

JOEY ARGO
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Argo

JOSEPH BOYD
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