There is always something blooming at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Plan your next visit soon!

Visit bbgardens.org & check out what’s new at The Gardens.

November
Camellias
Fall Annuals
Fall Color
Herbs
Hollies
Japanese Maples
Ornamental Grasses
Roses
Vegetables

December
Camellias
Herbs
Hollies
Fall Color
Poinsettias
Winter Annuals

On The Cover
Hundreds participated in the 2015 Fall Plant Sale. Did you know fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs? All proceeds from the plant sale benefit education programs at The Gardens.

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
205.414.3959 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 Jan/Feb issue is Nov. 15.
Dear Friends:

All of us here at Birmingham Botanical Gardens thank you for your generous gifts directed our way during 2015. We strive to continue to be excellent stewards and to continually meet and deliver our mission to our many constituents. At the same time, we take no small amount of pride in our 50+ years of partnership with the city of Birmingham’s Park & Recreation department in the management and operations of one of our region’s sparkling gems.

As the year winds down, I hope it doesn’t come as a surprise to you that activities are seldom at a lull here. By the time you receive this issue of Garden Dirt, workers will have begun a series of much-awaited improvements to the Garden Center that will make the visitor experience even better. The work – mainly in the Strange Auditorium, Hodges Room, caterer’s kitchen and eight of our restrooms – will mean a little juggling of events and activities, and scant access for rentals this winter, but it will mean so much for the Garden Center’s overall utility and accessibility in the long-term. We thank the elected officials and taxpayers of Birmingham for these very significant improvements.

Work on a number of Friends-funded outdoor projects is ongoing and pedestrians are now enjoying enhanced connectivity to the zoo and other local amenities. Each time our visitors use their feet to get around, they stay a little healthier and our air stays a little bit cleaner, too! That’s a nice bargain. I hope you spend some time “on-the-ground” here and check out all the new and continuing improvements, including a new boardwalk into the bamboo collection in the Japanese Gardens. This neat feature was a gift from Protective Life and provides a new vantage point to safely view these interesting and important plants.

I ask that you please consider making a significant year-end gift to The Gardens so we can finish another year in a strong financial position. I’m looking forward to an exciting 2016, and The Gardens needs your support to underpin our efforts. All of us here are looking forward, too, to taking a small amount of time to reflect on the strides made in 2015, and to relax a bit during this thankful and festive time of year. We hope your holiday season is filled with friends, family, peace and joy.

See you in The Gardens,

Fred Spicer
Chief Executive Officer

Members-Only Free Plant Giveaway

Friday, November 20 • 9-5 p.m.
Saturday, November 21 • 9-2 p.m.

Choose your free plant from four different plants selected by CEO Fred Spicer.

Stop by the First Floor Adventures Classroom in the Garden Center to pick up your free plant.

Limit one plant per membership. No rainchecks.

This year’s selection includes:
Hypericum calycinum 'NCHCI'
Golden Rule St. John’s wort
Buxus 'Green Beauty'
boxwood hybrid
Betula nigra ‘Little King’
Fox Valley® dwarf river birch
Viburnum carlcephalum
fragrant snowball viburnum

For plant descriptions visit:
bbgardens.org/benefits
Planned Giving – Ordinary People Showing Extraordinary Generosity

For over fifty years, Birmingham Botanical Gardens has been a successful public-private partnership between Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the City of Birmingham. Still, we rely heavily on private support to help us maintain the aging infrastructure of The Gardens and fulfill the important roles we play in Birmingham, and beyond, as an educational provider, environmental steward, tourist destination and economic catalyst.

There are many ways you can support The Gardens and, perhaps, one of the most misunderstood is planned giving, a method of giving that enables donors to make larger gifts than they could make from just their income. A misconception is that planned giving is only for the “wealthy.” The truth is, even people of modest means can make a substantial philanthropic gift through planned giving. Such gifts are sometimes referred to as “stop-and-think” gifts because they require some planning and usually help from legal and financial advisors. Unlike cash donations, they are typically made from assets in your estate rather than disposable income, and most come to fruition after your lifetime. All gifts are important, but planned gifts enable ordinary people to show extraordinary generosity.

Bequests – Creating a Legacy of Generosity with a Simple Planned Gift

Planned giving vehicles include different kinds of trusts, annuities and life insurance, but the most common is a simple bequest in your will or living trust. A bequest can be a gift of cash, securities, real estate or tangible personal property. Such a gift provides the opportunity to leave an enduring legacy of generosity through the continued support of The Gardens and our mission. Bequests also offer:

- **Simplicity** – A few sentences in your will or trust is probably all you need, but legal counsel is advised since state laws govern bequests.
- **Flexibility** – Changes are easy because the proceeds will not be distributed until after your lifetime.
- **Versatility** – Leave a specific amount of money, a percentage of your estate, or residual funds after estate debts and expenses are paid.
- **Tax Relief** – Receive a charitable deduction for the gift’s full value if you qualify.

Endowment – Building Financial Stability with the Gift that Keeps on Giving

Planned gifts play an important role in ensuring the long-term financial health of our organization, especially in times of economic uncertainty or downturn. By policy, proceeds from bequests are placed in our endowment, which is overseen by professional investment managers. Only a small percentage* can be spent annually, so your gift continues to grow, building a stable and secure financial base. Endowment gifts become “forever” gifts that continue the donor’s legacy of philanthropy for many years.

Stewardship – Honoring Donor Intentions through Responsible Management

We are seriously committed to being excellent stewards of the gifts with which we are entrusted. We also are committed to honoring our donors’ wishes, ensuring your gifts are used for the purposes for which you intended. When you make a planned gift to support The Gardens, you can rest assured that it will be managed responsibly and invested prudently by a team of knowledgeable investment professionals, monitored closely by the Finance and Investment Committees of our Board of Directors.

Have you remembered The Gardens in your will or estate planning?

If you have, thank you, and please make sure we know so we can express our appreciation and recognize you in our Perennial Society. If you haven’t, contact us today and learn more about how you can create your legacy of generosity with a planned gift to support The Gardens. Your generosity will help this important cultural and educational institution “grow forward” into the next fifty years and benefit generations to come.

For more information, please contact Drew Rickel, donor relations officer, at drickel@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3955.

*Not to exceed 5% of the most recent 12-quarter rolling average

Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and does not provide legal or tax advice. It is important for donors to make decisions about charitable planned gifts in conjunction with their overall estate planning. We are happy to work with donors, their attorneys and financial planners when needed, but donors should consult with their own legal and tax counsel.
If you like ornamental grasses and big bold plants, hardy sugar cane, *Saccharum arundinaceum*, is right up your alley. Like many of its more diminutive relatives in the monstrously complex and economically important grass family, Poaceae, it excels in late-season interest, reaching the apex of its ornamental appeal in late fall and early winter. It is not for the faint of heart or for the small garden as it easily tops 10’ in height and spread. But where it can be given ample room, it makes a unique, dramatic and architectural statement.

Leaves on hardy sugar cane are about 1” wide and have a striking white midrib. They emerge in late spring and quickly grow through summer to form a broad, arching mound of dull gray-green (below bottom). The slightest breeze sends the whole mass rippling and creates a wonderful “white noise” sound as well. By early November, the strongly vertical flower stalks have quickly elongated, and the fluffy panicles of cream are especially striking when backlit (top right). A frost or two bleaches the whole plant, introducing tawny shades of orange and beige (below top). The giant, pale brown mass is effective through mid-winter and makes a striking focal point (bottom right) against the Conservatory here at The Gardens.

Like many grasses, hardy sugar cane is a fast grower and demands a position in full sun. While it will respond favorably to supplemental irrigation and regular fertilizer, those are probably a surfeit of excess for this species, which grows lavishly without such fuss. Soils should be neutral to acid and well-drained for best growth. In early to mid-February (before it starts falling apart), cut the whole mass back to the ground with very sharp tools. It’s a good idea to tie the plant up with sturdy twine to prevent it from blowing all over the neighborhood and you might need a helper to make that an easier job! Thick gloves and long sleeves are a must, not only because it’s winter but because the leaves have very keen edges. Remove any occasional seedlings while they’re small. Giant sugar cane is seldom seen in garden shops but can be found on the web at a number of mail-order nurseries.
Going Native: Volunteers Contribute to the Legacy of the Kaul Wildflower Garden

Taylor Steele, volunteer coordinator

To understand the legacy of the Kaul Wildflower Garden, you would need to go back to 1966 with its first group of talented and dedicated volunteers. Ladies like Barbara “Bobbe” Orr Kaul, Weesie Smith, Margaret Wimberly and Sue Kinnear. Their vision and commitment was to create a native plant (wildflower) garden from what essentially was scorched earth with a few invasives thrown in was extraordinary.

A legacy usually begins with something being handed down. For the Kaul Wildflower Garden, that task was given to Swiss landscape architect Zenon Schreiber, who turned a rock quarry from the 1930’s into a nationally renowned naturalistic wildflower garden. Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion knows the importance of the work done by his predecessor, and has continued the legacy started almost 50 years ago with the assistance of his volunteers.

The Kaul Wildflower Garden is a special place. They are dedicated individuals who come to The Gardens, some weekly, to contribute to the development and upkeep of the native plant collections. The tasks in which they are involved are varied and include planting, pruning, propagating and weeding. Some of these volunteers have been coming to help for five years! This group is led by Manion, who treasures these folks and always includes an educational component to the sessions. “Without these volunteers, the Kaul Wildflower Garden would not be what it is,” he says.

Kaul Wildflower Garden volunteers play a critical role in maintaining the seven-acre showcase of over 740 species of native plants. Manion and his volunteers are the reason why the Kaul Wildflower Garden is nationally known and recognized as a model for native plant conservation and education. Volunteering in the garden is educational, fun and rewarding and Manion’s volunteers are involved in a unique botanical and cultural resource in the region. Depending upon your interests, you will have the opportunity to learn about native plants, meet new people, enhance your professional skills and take home free native plants for your own gardening projects.

Regular work days are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Heavy rain/bad weather and major holiday weekends cancels garden workdays. If you would like to volunteer in the Kaul Wildflower Garden, contact tsteele@bbgardens.org. Volunteers should be dressed for the season, bring gardening gloves, hat and sunscreen and be prepared to have fun learning about native plants while digging in the dirt!
adult&family classes

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

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

HERBAL 1ST AID
Instructor: Antonia Viteri & Cameron Strouss
Saturday, November 28 10-noon
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Members $15 | Non-Members $20

SALVAGE GARDENS
An upcycling group
Instructor: Dawn Coleman
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Every 2nd Thursday starting October 2015 5:30-8 p.m.
Free, pre-register to receive e-mail updates on topics

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL: MACROPHOTOGRAPHY
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Saturday, November 7 9-noon & Saturday, November 14 9-noon
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Members $100 | Non-Members $120

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS: WHAT’S THIS BUTTON DO?
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Saturday, December 5 9-noon
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Members $50 | Non-Members $60

FLORA PHOTOGRAPHY
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Saturday, December 19 9-noon
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Members $60 | Non-Members $75

MEMORABLE IMAGES
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Saturday, January 9 9-noon & Saturday, January 16 9-noon
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Members $100 | Non-Members $120

Southern Tales
November 1

Dirt Dash Fun Run
November 14

Member Plant Giveaway
November 20 & 21

Red Mountain Garden
Club Greenery Sale
December 2
Rosewood Hall in Homewood

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
December 10
West Oxmoor Valley Community Center

Library Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday 9 - 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 - 4 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.
205.414.3920

bbgardens.org
205.414.3950
Run the great trails of The Gardens and support the #1 Free Attraction in Alabama.

Saturday, November 14, 2015
5k Fun Run
1 mile Family Walk

5k Fun Run entries received by November 13 - $30.00
5k Fun Run entries Race Day - $40.00

1 mile Family Walk - $20.00 adults, $15.00 ages 7-17, children under 6 are free

Register online at www.bbgardens.org/funrun.

2015 Red Mountain Garden Club Greenery Sale
Wednesday, December 2, 9-1 p.m.
Rosewood Hall in Homewood
Note: Because of renovations to the Garden Center, this year’s sale will be held at Rosewood Hall in Homewood.
Deadline for pre-orders is November 20.
redmountaingardenclub.com

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

AMERICAN GIRL® GIRLS JUST LIKE ME: AUTUMN FUN
For children age 5 and above
Instructor: Robin Geurs
Thursday, November 5 | 3:30-5 p.m.
$15 Members | $20 Non-Members

AMERICAN GIRL® GIRLS JUST LIKE ME: AUTUMN FUN
For children age 5 and above
Instructor: Robin Geurs
Sunday, November 8 | 2-4 p.m.
$15 Members | $20 Non-Members

AMERICAN GIRL® GIRLS JUST LIKE ME: FESTIVAL OF TREES
For children age 5 and above
Instructor: Robin Geurs
Thursday, December 3 | 3:30-5 p.m.
$15 members | $20 non-members

AMERICAN GIRL® GIRLS JUST LIKE ME: FESTIVAL OF TREES
For children age 5 and above
Instructor: Robin Geurs
Sunday, December 6 | 2-4 p.m.
$15 members | $20 non-members
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.

Ages 6-12 years old.

**Junior Master Gardener 9: Make-up session**
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless
Saturday, November 21 | 9-1p.m.
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.

**ARCHIVAL DISPLAYS OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY**
November

December
Annual Christmas Flower Show Schedules of Shades Valley Council of Garden Clubs of Third District along with some Christmas tree publications.

Due to construction there will be no Art Display or Gerlach Plant Information Center Display inside the Garden Center until April 2016.

**THYME TO READ**

- **December 8:**
  *Down the Garden Path*
  by Beverley Nichols

- **January 5:**
  *Voracious: A Hungry Reader Cooks Her Way Through Great Books* by Cara Nicoletti

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.

**CENTRAL SOUTH NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE**

Native Plants – At Home and Afar
New Views and New Uses

OCTOBER 29-31, 2015

The Central-South Native Plant Conference returns in 2015 with renowned botanists, landscape architects and authors set to lead dynamic talks and field trips exploring the biodiversity of Alabama and beyond.

Featuring Preston Montague, Janisse Ray, Lea Ann Macknally, Larry Mellichamp, Bill Finch, Thomas Rainer, Jeff Lowenfels, Chris Bennett

This year’s conference honors Jan Midgley.

Register online at [www.bbgardens.org/csnpc](http://www.bbgardens.org/csnpc)
A Sweet Strangeness Thrills My Heart:  
The World of  
Sallie Independence Foster, 1861 - 1887

with Dolores Hydock and Bobby Horton

Sallie Independence Foster lived in a world of high-top shoes, inkwells, and mail carried on horseback. But storyteller Dolores Hydock and musician Bobby Horton have brought her into the 21st century.

Sallie Independence Foster was 12 years old and living in Florence, Alabama in 1861 when the Civil War began. She was keeping a diary at the time, and kept on keeping a diary for 26 years. This performance, based on Sallie's diaries, papers, and letters from her brothers off at war, presents a funny, touching, and uniquely personal look at the life and times that Sallie shared with her paper “dear Companion.”

Storyteller Dolores Hydock and music historian Bobby Horton interweave Sallie’s story with camp songs, period favorites, and original tunes to create a poignant, powerful, humorous, and honest picture of a world of innocence turned upside-down.
GARDENING “TIPS” CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

• SHRUBS – Plant Shrubs, trees, and vines.
• LAWNS – Some owners like lawn paints. Have you thought about having a green lawn this winter? Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.
• ROSES – Get rose plantings 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.
• BULBS – 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

• 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 holiday gifts.

Did You Know?

Japan’s Christmas Gift to Birmingham - 1965

Fifty years ago, Birmingham Botanical Gardens got a Christmas present that even Neiman-Marcus couldn’t offer - a Japanese teahouse/pavilion, used at New York’s 1964-1965 World’s Fair. Included in the gift were some typical shrubs, dwarf pines and other landscape materials used at the fair. This gift from Japan was a replica of the centuries-old chashitsu, the place for cha-no-yu (tea ceremonies) in Japanese gardens. The interior consisted of a main room with space for seating and a stage or platform where a tea ceremony, flower arranging or similar event would have been presented. There was also a kitchen-pantry, dressing room and storage room in the teahouse. An anonymous donor gave $10,000 to the Birmingham Park & Recreation Board in memory of his son, to help with the dismantling, transportation and re-construction of the structure. This was our first teahouse, before being replaced with our current teahouse Toshinan in 1993.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

December 10, 2015 • 11:30-1 p.m.

New location for 2015. West Oxmoor Valley Community Center • 1992 Wenonah-Oxmoor Road • 35211
Thank you to the Individuals, Foundations, Companies & Cities who awarded us grants in 2014 & 2015

Birmingham Kiwanis Foundation
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Alabama/The Caring Foundation
The Brooke Family Foundation
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Mr. & Mrs. Bob de Buys
Dunn-French Foundation
Mrs. Judy R. Evans
Marion & Chris Fennell
Mr. & Mrs. J.S.M. French
Mr. & Mrs. Houston Gillespy
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Goodrich

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Grinney
Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Murray, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Noble, III
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Northen, III
Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Ray, Jr.
Rucker & Margaret Agee Fund
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Rushton, III
Mr. & Mrs. B. Hanson Slaughter
Mrs. Lucille R. Thompson

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Mr. & Mrs. Houston Gillespy
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Goodrich

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Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Noble, III
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Northen, III
Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Ray, Jr.
Rucker & Margaret Agee Fund
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Rushton, III
Mr. & Mrs. B. Hanson Slaughter
Mrs. Lucille R. Thompson

The Perennial Society

As of September 30, 2015

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Mr. Philip Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Murray, Jr.
James L. Newsome
Dr. & Mrs. A. I. Perley *
Steve & LeAnne Porter
Mrs. Carol P Poynor
Mrs. Dorothy L. Renneker *
Deborah & John Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Spencer, III *
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Mr. & Mrs. Rick Stukes
Dr. Wendell H. Taylor, Sr. *
Mrs. Barbara D. Thorne *
Mrs. Carolyn D. Tynes *
Mrs. Ann H. “Nancy” Warren *
Mrs. Robert Wells
Anonymous

As of September 30, 2015

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Balliet
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Mrs. Lucille S. Beeson *
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Hope Long
Dr. Michael E. Malone
MSS. Louise T. McIlroy *

*Deceased
memorials

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Ms. Carol Milton

H. CECIL COGHLAN
Oak Street Garden Shop

DONALD L. COMER
Oak Street Garden Shop

SARAH CORNEY
Mrs. Carole Simpson

L. AUBREY DREWRY
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Lilies Of The Valley Garden Club

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Lilies Of The Valley Garden Club

LEON M. WHITMIRE
Gerdau Steel Co.

FRED P. WHITTAKER
Oak Street Garden Shop

LAURA WOOD
Mr. & Mrs. George Simpson

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN
7.1.15-8.31.15

If we have inadvertently left your name out or
incorrectly listed you, please accept our apologies
and contact Drew Rickel, donor relations officer, at
205.414.3955 or drickel@bbgardens.org.

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Bill & Lynda Daniel

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Community Foundation
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Rediker Rucker Foundation

BRONZE LEVEL
Anonymous (2)
The Lucille S. Beeson Charitable Trust
Butrus Family Advised Fund
Holly Oak Garden Club
Valley Off-Shoots Garden Club

Birmingham Fern Society
In memory of H.M. “Fuzzy” Perritt

GreyStone Farm Garden Club
In honor of Jason Kirby

Gardendale Garden Club
In honor of Jason Kirby

GARDEN CLUB OF MOODY
In honor of Jason Kirby

VERV MURTH
In memory of Frank Wagner
Birmingham Parks & Recreation
Director 1961-1987

THEME TO READ BOOK GROUP
In memory of Ellen Schmidt

Michael Lynch
Cindy O’Neal
John Floyd
Kathy Talli
Jessica George
Paul and Marc Bibb
Joe Musso
Dana Glass

All members of The Gardens receive a 10% discount off of purchases.

HOURS
Monday-Saturday: 9:30-5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1-4 p.m.
205.877.3030       leafnpetal.com
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Alosi
Betty & Walt Anderson
Anonymous (2)
Anonymous
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