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.

**July**
- Crape Myrtles
- Daylilies (peak)
- Ferns
- Herbs
- Hostas
- Hydrangeas
- Perennials
- Roses
- Southern Magnolias
- Summer Annuals
- Tropicals
- Vegetables

**August**
- Crape Myrtles
- Daylilies
- Ferns
- Herbs
- Perennials
- Summer Annuals
- Tropicals
- Vegetables
- Vegetables

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**Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**2015 Board of Directors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Barr</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverley Hoyt</td>
<td>President-Elect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanson Slaughter</td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Walton</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Jones</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverley Hoyt</td>
<td>VP Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Broughton</td>
<td>VP Gardens &amp; Buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Goodrich</td>
<td>Governance Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wally Evans</td>
<td>Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Gillespy</td>
<td>Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- At Large:
  - Cathy Adams
  - Craig Beatty
  - Mary Boehm
  - Chris Bole
  - Emily Bowron
  - Maggie Brook
  - Clarke Gillespy
  - John Hudson
  - John Hurst
  - Turner Inscoe
  - Bill Ireland
  - Elizabeth Jernigan
  - Natalie Kelly
  - Carl Jones
  - Kay Baker Lusker
  - John Miller
  - John Smith

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 mission of Birmingham Botanical Gardens is to be one of the nation’s preeminent botanical gardens.

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**Staff**

**Main**

205.414.3950

- Fred Spicer, Executive Director & CEO
- Stephanie Banks, Chief Financial Officer
- Dawn Coleman, Education Activities Specialist
- Elizabeth Drewry, Librarian
- Ellen Hardy, Education Program Coordinator
- Blake Ellis, Public Relations Coordinator
- Jean Frey, Director of Development
- Henry Hughes, Director of Education
- Jason Kirby, Library Assistant & Archivist
- Andrew B. Krebbs, Director of Marketing & Membership
- Hope Long, Director of Library Services
- John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Gardens Curator
- Pam McLeod, Donor Services Coordinator
- Brooke McMinn, Plant Adventures Program Specialist
- Drew Rickel, Donor Relations Officer
- Taylor Steele, Volunteer Coordinator
- Ragan Stone, Special Events Coordinator
- Rosa Walters, Membership Assistant

**On The Cover**

Hundreds of visitors enjoyed activities celebrating community gardens at Earth Day at The Gardens on May 31.
Dear Friends:

If you’ve been to The Gardens in the past year or so, you have no doubt been aware of the work proceeding on Cahaba and Lane Park Roads. In a way, it feels like we’re the center of attention with all of this activity around us. Looked at another way, the work provides us with opportunities that don’t come around every day, and we’ve acted. In May, our Board of Directors approved funding for a number of special projects that will make us more accessible than we’ve been since cars were permitted to drive through. (And if you remember that, you’ve been a supporter for quite some time!)

We are certainly fortunate to have the Birmingham Zoo as across-the-street neighbors on Cahaba Road. Thanks to a federal SAFETEA grant, matching funds from the City of Birmingham and former U.S. Representative Spencer Bachus’ and zoo CEO Dr. Bill Foster’s efforts, that road is much safer and much more beautiful. These improvements will enable the pedestrian connectivity in our neighborhood that we have long sought and we’ll soon be opening the Lawler Gates on a regular basis. Improvements here funded by The Friends include a pedestrian plaza at the roundabout, a stone seat wall, map, color plantings, a new service gate, new black vinyl-coated chain link perimeter fencing and monumental signage in two locations.

At our Lane Park Road vehicular exit, new pedestrian access will be built extending to the Garden Center from a crosswalk to be provided by the city of Birmingham. In addition, a number of areas will see important work including the Cherry Allee, the Abroms Rhododendron Species Garden and the Southern Living Garden. Most of the funds will come from the Lucille S. Beeson Charitable Trust, with additional funding from unrestricted savings. We expect this outside work to continue through the rest of the year, and in November, the Garden Center will be a focus for a number of important renovations that I will write more about in the next issue.

Please come out and watch us grow – it’s an exciting time!

See you in The Gardens,

Fred Spicer
Executive Director & CEO

$700,000 IN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GARDENS

Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens will invest over $700,000 in improvements that focus on three main goals: pedestrian connectivity, improved security and an improved visitor experience. All improvements will feature universal design, with the most noticeable changes coming on Cahaba Road, the road that separates The Gardens from its neighbors at the Birmingham Zoo. There, a pedestrian entrance will be created, accompanied by new signage welcoming guests to The Gardens, bike racks, a map and a complete renovation of the Lawler Gates.

The Southern Living Garden will receive a new barrier free path, with partial funding coming from Time, Inc. The Gardens will get new trash and recycling receptacles throughout, new signage (including way finding and garden identification signs), path repairs in selected areas, new swings and water feature repairs.

“These projects underscore the long and fruitful public/private partnership between the city and Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens,” said Mayor William A. Bell, Jr. “Working closely together, we are continuing to make the city of Birmingham better for all of its residents and for all of our visitors.”

Much of this work is being funded through the Lucille S. Beeson Charitable Trust managed by Regions Bank. Contracted for these projects are: Landscape Services, Inc., Birmingham Fence Company, Fravert Services, Aquatic Gardens & Fountains and Turner Steel Products.

The City of Birmingham is providing invaluable in-kind assistance, as they do with every project at The Gardens.
In December 2013, I hosted a Christmas luncheon on behalf of The Gardens in honor of 91-year old Tee Dee Johnson. Tee Dee loved Christmas at our house, built by her grandparents, Margaret and Charles DeBardeleben, in 1923, the place where she grew up. Through a house, she and I were family.

Tee Dee, epitomizing the gracious tradition of the Southern Lady, deserved a corsage. She clapped her hands as I pinned it to her bright red jacket and asked, “Can we do this again every year? I plan to live to be 100.”

I believed her. When she slipped away from us this past February, just a month short of her 93rd birthday, I was bereft but not surprised. Christmas 2014, she was “just too tired” to have a lunch, and the week before she died she wrote me a lovely note about the value of our friendship.

She was, in that great tradition of the Southern Lady, something of a character. Her nephew Temple Tutwiler delivered her eulogy wearing a pair of her trademark-oversized sunglasses. Friends and family both laughed and wept as he recalled her love of bright colors, of everything in nature from smallest bug to elephants. Knickknacks and needlepoint and, oh, those notes, always eloquently expressed on beautiful paper, and hand written until the end.

For 93 years. Tee Dee daily lived Psalm 118, “this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” She never lost a child’s sense of wonder, or that childlike demonstration of clapping her hands.

Her greatest delight was in giving to others, whether in magnificent generosity to groups like the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, or in a basket of freshly laid eggs from her farm, delivered to my husband in a silver basket one morning not long after sunrise.

I own a priceless collection of “Tee Dee stories,” my favorite relating to a majestic water oak in our front yard. Tee Dee’s earliest memory was of planting it, age four, with her grandmother. “My grandfather laughed at us,” she said, “It was just a twig. My grandmother said that some day this tree would give shade to the people who came after us.” An early lesson in leaving legacies.

Inspired by the Tee Dee Tree Story, my six year old twin granddaughters Ashlyn and Skylar and I planted two BBG Plant Sale Japanese maples in this yard, duly marked, in hopes that 88 years from now other little girls to come will find cause to clap their hands.

About 10 years ago, HGTV came to Birmingham to tape a segment of If These Walls Could Talk featuring our house and garden. The producers invited Tee Dee to add a one-minute commentary to a seven-minute segment. She arrived straight from the beauty shop, as always with pearls in place and not a hair out of place, and began to regale the young Denver-based crew with stories. Two hours later, they were still filming Tee Dee. We took a break for a cup of tea, served in real china cups of course, and I heard one of the interviewers in the kitchen calling back to Denver, “We have found the real deal, a genuine SOUTHERN LADY.”

Indeed. Grace, and charm, and beauty, and manners, enhanced by an innate gift for growing older without growing old, for keeping the best of the child’s gift of wonder.
Oaks are a dominant tree in the US, with at least 39 species in Alabama, and about 90 in the country. Mexico boasts 160 species and, of the 600 or so oaks globally, an additional 100 species hail from China making it the second highest center of the genus’ diversity. However, a number of the Asian species would be unfamiliar to most casual observers. For starters, they’re evergreen, but the leaves don’t look like those from the Gulf coast. Second, the leaves are not lobed, but instead have simple serrations on the leaf edge. You might guess “oak” if you saw the acorns (which are often rare in cultivation) but you’d marvel at the concentric rings on the acorn cap: our native species have overlapping scales.

Two Asian evergreen oaks appear well-adapted to Birmingham. The first one is *Quercus glauca*, Japanese blue oak, which is the smaller-growing of the two. Our specimens here appear to favor a multi-stemmed habit of growth; I suspect this could be natural but timely training when young could yield a single trunk. They are medium-dense small broadleaf evergreen trees (actually more like immense shrubs), with sweeping, upright branches. They have grown slowly to their present size of around 30’. The leaves (left bottom) emerge shiny-purple-brown before fading to dark green. The reverse is bluish, hence the name. The species has broad nativity west to Afghanistan in a narrow band of favorable moist-temperate climate.

*Q. myrsinifolia*, Chinese evergreen oak, is native to China, Taiwan, Japan and west to the Himalaya in similar areas. Acid soils are a must. A bit faster in growth and ultimately larger, in open sites they develop a rounded, dense canopy. One specimen just inside the Taylor Gate in the Japanese Gardens is about 40’ wide and tall (above). The smooth, dark brown bark is quite handsome. The leaves are much narrower than the prior species and lend the species another common name: bamboo-leafed oak (left top).

Both of the above have withstood our last two winters (7°F and 8°F, respectively) with no stem or leaf injury. *Q. acuta*, Japanese evergreen oak, is sometimes touted as a good choice for southern gardens, but we would likely see damage at 15°F, and it is drought-intolerant.
If you ask volunteer Anthony Payne that question, you'll get a resounding “Yes!” Anthony has been a dedicated volunteer with The Gardens’ Plant Adventure program for over five years. In the past Anthony volunteered with the Moody High School Athletics program and the Birmingham Zoo. Then, in 2010, Anthony discovered the array of volunteer opportunities at The Gardens on a visit with a group of student volunteers from The Horizons School, which offers a non-degree transition program specifically designed to facilitate personal, social and career independence for students with specific learning disabilities and other handicapping conditions.

Anthony remembers, “coming here, I thought ‘Wow! I can enjoy this!’” Following his participation with The Horizons School, he began visiting The Gardens with another group from The Exceptional Foundation. He enjoyed his time at The Gardens so much that he struck out on his own and began volunteering as an individual participant in the Plant Adventures Program twice a week.

You’ll now find Anthony in The Gardens every Monday and Wednesday morning (after taking two busses and walking a bit to get here) always eager to do whatever is needed. He has enjoyed seeing the Plant Adventures program grow into what it is now, and his knowledge and skills have grown with it. Anthony assists with a variety of gardening tasks, including water management, planting, pruning, weeding and propagating. But the lessons he has learned are much bigger than those skills alone.

Anthony says, “work is fun here. It's hard, but it's fun” and that the hard work has taught him to never give up and to follow his dreams. When asked what he enjoys most about working at The Gardens, he says the staff and other volunteers here are “the greatest people in the world to work with!” Anthony also says he loves being in the outdoors where he feels at peace with the world. He says, “it's easy to get caught up in the struggles of life. But when I come to The Gardens, I know that people here care about me and the work I do.”

Right now most of Anthony’s work is concentrated in the Arrington Plant Adventure Zone and in the Enabling Garden. He has also enjoyed helping out at several of The Gardens’ events, including the Spring Plant Sale. In the future he hopes to expand his work into other gardens, particularly the Dunn Formal Rose Garden, as the rose is his favorite plant. He admires the shape of the bloom, the softness of the petals, the variety of colors and sizes and, most of all, the “great aroma.”

Though he has his favorites, Anthony enjoys working with a variety of plants as well as a variety of people. He always greets visitors with a smile and takes personal pride in The Gardens and what it offers to the community. Anthony says “I pray to God that people will love this place as much as I do.” He has some advice for people visiting The Gardens as well: “Walk slowly. Observe everything.”

To learn more about volunteering at The Gardens, contact Taylor Steele, volunteer coordinator, at tsteele@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3962. To support Plant Adventures, contact Drew Rickel, donor relations officer, at drickel@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3955.
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

FAMILY YOGA SERIES
Instructor: Annie Damsky
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
2nd Saturday of the month | 9-10 a.m.
$15 drop-in (child+1 adult) •
$5 for an additional family member (per class)

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

WATER FEATURES OF THE GARDENS
Instructor: Hank Siegel
Saturday, July 25 | 9-noon
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
$65 members | $75 non-members

PRUNING: TECHNIQUES, OUTCOMES & DESIGN INFLUENCES
Instructor: Fred Spicer
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Thursday, August 20 | 6-8 p.m.
Members-Only

Flicks Among the Flowers
July 15

Antiques at The Gardens
October 1-4

Bunny Williams Lecture
October 1

Emily Thomspn Lecture
October 2

Gala in The Gardens
October 1

Fall Plant Sale
October 17-18

Central South Native Plant Conference
October 29-31

Dirt Dash Fun Run
November 14

bbgardens.org
205.414.3950

LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday - Friday | 9 - 4 p.m.
Saturday | 10 - 4 p.m.
Sunday | 2 - 5 p.m.
205.414.3920

USE YOUR LIBRARY CARD HERE.
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.

Teachers are certified or otherwise qualified. For more information, contact Education Program Coordinator Ellen Hardy at 205.414.3953 or ehardy@bbgardens.org.

**MORNING CAMPS**

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

Camp Birmingham Botanical Gardens: Young Naturalists

Growing Through Yoga

Gardening in Wonderland: Designing and Modeling

*Hydrangea Level Members & above
Classes, Field Trips & Volunteer Opportunities
Registration & further information about the program, including course descriptions & certificate requirements, can be found at www.bbgardens.org/plantstudies or call 205.414.3950.
All are welcome to register for any of the classes.

Introduction to Botany (core)
Instructor: Tom Diggs Ph.D., Asst. Professor, University of North Georgia
Saturday, August 8 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
$80 Members | $90 Non-Members

Introduction to Native Plant Conservation (core)
Instructor: Bob Boyd PhD, Professor, Auburn University
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Saturday, August 22 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.
$80 Members | $90 Non-Members

Plant-Soil Relationships (core)
Instructor: Henry Hughes, Director of Education
Saturday, August 29 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
$80 Members | $90 Non-Members

Introduction to Plant Taxonomy/Classification (core)
Instructor: Tom Diggs Ph.D., Asst. Professor, University of North Georgia
Saturday, September 12 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
$80 Members | $90 Non-Members

Native Grasses and Grass-like Plants (elective)
Instructor: Dan Spaulding, Curator, Anniston Museum of Natural History
Saturday, September 19 | 8:30-12:30 p.m.
$40 Members | $45 Non-Members

Growing Native Trees from Seed – Oaks, Hickories and Others – Part 1 (new elective)
Instructor: Henry Hughes, Director of Education
Saturday, October 10 | 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
$40 Members | $45 Non-Members

Junior Master Gardener 5: Vegetables & Herbs
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless
Saturday, July 18 | 9-1p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom
$45 per class

Junior Master Gardener 6: Insects & Diseases
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless
Saturday, August 15 | 9-1p.m.
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 | 9-1p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom
$45 per class

Junior Master Gardener 8: Fruits & Nuts
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless
Saturday, October 17 | 9-1p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom
$45 per class

Junior Master Gardener 9: Make-up session
Teacher: Julie Danley & Gail Pless
Saturday, November 21 | 9-1p.m.
Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens-Exploration Classroom
$45 per class

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.

Ages 6-12 years old.

To register visit www.bbgardens.org/classes or call 205.414.3950.
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.
## Gardening “Tips” Calendar

### July
- Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.
- Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist.
- Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.
- In lawns, watch for diseases. Mow regularly, and water as needed.
- Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
- Apply fertilizer as needed. Wash off foliage to prevent burning if any fertilizer falls on plants.
- Water annuals and perennials as needed to keep plants active.
- Iris and spider lily bulbs may be planted late this month.
- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task this month. This demands close observation for insects and diseases, and frequent watering.
- Plant beans, field peas, rutabagas, squash, New Zealand spinach, and Irish potatoes. Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery for the fall crop.
- Plant tomatoes in Central and North Alabama.

### August
- Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes. Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.
- Layer branches of hydrangea.
- Hybrid teas and floribundas may need slight pruning to prevent scraggly appearance.
- Water annuals and perennials as needed to keep plants active.
- Plant perennials and biennials.
- Divide old iris plantings and add new bulbs.
- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month. This means close observation for insects and diseases.
- Plant turnips, rutabagas, beans, and peas in South Alabama.
- Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and celery.

For more information, see [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) or call the Plant Hotline at 800.644.4458.

### Meet Jessica Griggs

Jessica Griggs is the eighth consecutive summer intern funded by the Rotary Club of Shades Valley. A graduate of the Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School, she is a senior communications major at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In her 12 weeks with The Gardens, Jessica will be involved in a wide variety of activities; her emphasis will be in the Plant Adventures program, under the supervision of Brooke McMinn.

As a survivor of trauma, who has found respite through gardening, Jessica is particularly interested in the beneficial, therapeutic effects of nature. She says, “Healing is an art, I have discovered, and nature is an essential component. Nature connects the ordinary to the extraordinary and allows people to identify with and relate to one another. It heals, holds us together, and brings us back to our roots.”

Jessica will study the interactions between people and plants and their significance in promoting human well-being. Her projects will include two case studies: one of community services, focused on The Gardens’ various programs and success stories, and one on healing, relating to Jessica’s personal journey. She wants her work with trauma, recovery, faith and success to increase the potential for healing in others.

### Archives Needs Your Help

The Archives is looking for some unique artifacts that you may have in your attics or basement and, hoping that you would like to donate to The Gardens’ wonderful collection. This may include: Garden Club Yearbooks, Flower Show Schedules, Plant Show Booklets, Plant Society Yearbooks/Directories, Gardening and Botanical Pamphlets (pre-1940s), USDA Gardening & Horticulture Publications (pre-1950s), Victory Garden Posters and Publications, Old Farmer's Almanacs (pre-1930s), Vintage Garden Cigarette Cards, Antique Flower Frogs (metal, glass, wire, etc), Antique to Vintage Handheld Garden Tools, Gardening and Floral Postage Stamps (pre-1960s). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Archivist Jason Kirby at 205.444.3967, or by email at jkirby@bbgardens.org.
Thank you to the Individuals, Foundations, Companies & Cities who awarded us grants in 2014

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Mr. Philip Morris

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Anonymous

*Deceased
**Memorials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOBBIE ABERNETHY</td>
<td>Mr. Clarence T. Estock</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOUISE C. BAILEY</td>
<td>Lilies Of The Valley Garden Club</td>
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<td>WILLIAM BRANTLEY</td>
<td>Ms. Miriam McClung</td>
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<td>MARY A. CHAMPION</td>
<td>Mrs. J. W. Bledsoe, Jr.</td>
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<td>ALBERTO E. CHIESA</td>
<td>Mrs. Alberto E. Chiesa</td>
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<td>JOHN COX</td>
<td>Oak Street Garden Shop</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. C. Vann Goodner, Jr.</td>
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<td>CARL MATTIL</td>
<td>Mr. Frank A. Wagner</td>
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<td>EDITH W. MEDLEY</td>
<td>Lilies Of The Valley Garden Club Oak Street Garden Shop</td>
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<td>WILLIAM M. MILLER</td>
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- **Garden of Inverness**
  - in honor of Fletcher Harvey
- **Birmingham Fern Society**
  - in honor of Jason Kirby
- **Friends Group**
  - in honor of Jason Kirby
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- **Edgewood Garden Club**
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**Hours**
- Monday-Saturday: 9:30-5:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 1-4 p.m.
- 205.877.3030 leafnpetal.com

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