

Speakers for

2023 AMGA State Conference HOME GROWN in Alabama™

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Bryant Conference Center Tuscaloosa, Alabama



Felder Rushing is an 11th-generation Southern gardener who travels worldwide in his quest for practical and inspirational gardening ideas to share. Widely promoting his belief that too many garden-variety gardeners are put off by strict rules (“We are daunted, not dumb” he says), Felder was named by Southern Living as one of 25 people “most likely to change the South.” The retired colors-outside-the-lines Extension Horticulturist, who started the MG program in his state, continues to write his syndicated newspaper columns of 43 years and counting, and for 21 years remains the host of the live, weekly *Gestalt Gardener* program, one National Public Radio’s most popular gardening programs, broadcast live from his travels around the country and world. He has written or contributed substantially to 33 gardening books, including national award winners such as *Pass-along Plants*, *Slow Gardening*, and *Better Homes and Gardens’s* children’s gardening book. He is HGTV’s original online Q&A person and has been featured in three full-length articles about his exploits and philosophy in the *New York Times*. The contributing editor at *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, and

Garden Design magazines has had his articles and photographs published in dozens of other publications including *Organic Gardening*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and the *Geographic*; his garden has been featured in many. Felder served as a distinctly non-stuffy board member of the American Horticulture Society, member of the Horticulture Society, British Cottage Garden Society, national director of the Garden Writers’ Association, and president of several garden organizations including his state’s native plant society. For the past 14 years he has spent six months a year traveling, lecturing, and reporting from both his celebrated Mississippi cottage garden and a Victorian terrace herb and succulent garden in Lancashire, England.



Dr. Doug Phillips the creator, producer, and host of the Emmy-winning TV series *Discovering Alabama*, has been bringing viewers the diverse natural wonders of Alabama for more than 30 years. As a champion for nature, he has pioneered many initiatives for environmental education and environmental protection for our state, including Alabama’s nationally recognized Forever Wild land conservation program. Dr. Phillips comes to us from his office at the Alabama Museum of Natural History. And, he says, anything else you want to know, he’ll be happy to share during his presentation. Dr. Doug earned his Ph.D. in Educational Research from The University of Alabama. Today he holds the title of Coordinator for Environmental Information and Education: The Alabama Museum of Natural History, as well as Executive Producer and Host of *Discovering Alabama*. Dr. Doug continues to teach, holding in-service workshops for K-12 teachers throughout the year and across the state. At the college level, Dr. Doug is Creator and

Principal Instructor of *Discovering Alabama Ecology*, an environmental science course at The University of Alabama. Dr. Doug is author of the award-winning books, *Discovering Alabama Wetlands* and *Discovering Alabama Forests*.



Dr. Andy Coleman has been studying various turtle species for over 15 years. His work has taken him from the salt marshes of the Gulf of Mexico coast to the beaches of Mexico and back to the rivers and streams of Alabama. He is the founder of the Urban Turtle Project and an Assistant Professor of Biology at Talladega College. He resides in Trussville, AL, with his wife and two young children.

Turtles in the City: Documenting Urban Turtles of Alabama

Description: Alabama supports the greatest turtle diversity in the nation, and the majority of the 40 species inhabits the many streams and rivers that can be found in this state. Interestingly, a number of populations can be observed within urban areas, and the Urban Turtle Project was started in 2018 to document these populations and study various aspects of their ecology and conservation. The work we have done through this research has provided important insight that can be used to better manage these species. This presentation will introduce you to the methods we employ and to the amazing turtle diversity that we can find in our urban waterways.