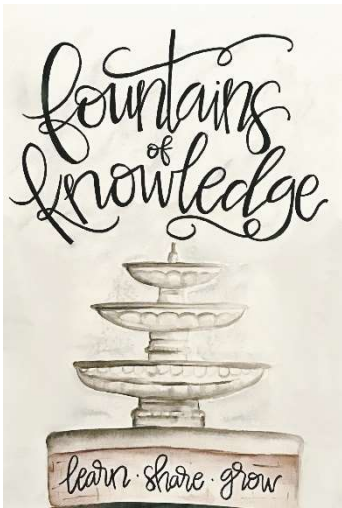


**2025 AMGA STATE CONFERENCE AND BUSINESS MEETING**

**“FOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE**

**LEARN, SHARE, GROW”**



**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 15, 2025**

April 3 – 5, 2025  
First Baptist Church  
138 South Washington Street  
Prattville, Alabama

- Please complete a separate form for each person attending or register online.
- Guests of attendee, who will not be attending the conference but will attend the meal events, are to be included on this form.

**1. Registrant Information**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Local MG Association \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: MG \_\_\_ MG Intern \_\_\_ ACES \_\_\_ Speaker \_\_\_ Vendor \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Preferred Name on Badge (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

- The registration fee includes a Thursday welcome reception, Friday lunch, dinner and break refreshments. Breakfast is NOT included. (see hotel information)
- Preconference tours, workshops, t-shirts, and guest meals are additional pay items.

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Registration January 15 – March 1                      \$185 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Late Registration March 2– 15                                      \$195 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Guest meals and t-shirts are not available.)

**2. Registrant Meal Information and Selection**

Thursday Meet and Greet Reception: Heavy Hors d’oeuvres and Non-alcoholic Beverages

Please check one: I will \_\_\_\_\_ I will not \_\_\_\_\_ be attending the Thursday Meet and Greet Reception.

Friday boxed lunch will include a Dessert and a Beverage (select one entrée)

Turkey Sandwich Combo \_\_\_\_\_ Ham Sandwich Combo \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Salad \_\_\_\_\_

None \_\_\_\_\_

Friday's Dinner will be Buffet Style: Smoked Beef Roast or Poppyseed Chicken, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert, and Tea.

Please select an entrée or Not Attending:

Smoked Beef Roast\_\_\_\_\_ Poppyseed Chicken\_\_\_\_\_ Not Attending\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Guest Meals and Fees. Please check each meal requested. Not available for late registration.**

Name of Guest (please print)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday Meet and Greet Reception: Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and Non-alcoholic beverages. Meal-time guest, no event access

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ \$28 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Not Attending\_\_\_\_\_

Friday Boxed Lunch: Meal-time guest, no event access

Turkey Sandwich Combo\_\_\_\_\_ \$14.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Ham Sandwich Combo\_\_\_\_\_ \$14.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Garden Salad\_\_\_\_\_ \$12.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Guest Not Attending\_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner: Smoked Beef Roast or Poppyseed Chicken, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert, and Tea. Please select one entrée if your guest is attending. Meal-time guest, no event access

Smoked Roast Beef\_\_\_\_\_ \$38 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Poppyseed Chicken\_\_\_\_\_ \$38 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Not Attending\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Guest Meal Fees** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Conference Logo T-shirts. Must be pre-paid with registration. Not available with late registration.**

Please indicate the size and number of each:

S\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_\_ XL\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \$\_\_\_\_\_

2XL\_\_\_\_\_ 3XL\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total T-Shirt Fees** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Preconference Tours – Thursday, April 3. Note that start times vary. A complete description of each tour follows the registration information.** There is no charge for self-guided tours, but all attendees must be pre-registered. Directions and additional tour information will be available when you sign in for the conference. **CHECK the time of the tour session you wish to attend.**

**Wilderness Bamboo Park – Self-Guided Tour.** 800 Upper Kingston Road, Prattville. The U.S. military once used the bamboo forest inside the Wilderness Park during the Vietnam era. It is open from dawn to dusk.



**Artwork – Resin Butterfly by Jesaca Wilson (Conference Artist)**

You will make a resin butterfly artwork at the **Pzazz Art Studio, 1812 Glynwood Drive, Prattville**. Resin takes 24+ hours to dry and cannot be moved. Your dried artwork will be ready to be picked up Saturday, April 5 between 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Pzazz Art Studio. Materials are provided. Limited to 50 participants.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 am \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Whimsical Garden Art by Elaine Densmore (retired ACES Admin. Support Assoc./Chilton)**

You will make a glass garden art flower using a “kit”. Your flower can be hung on a fence post or pipe or displayed on a table. (pipe/rebar is not provided). Materials will be provided. Limited to 20 participants per session.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 am \_\_\_\_\_ 1:00 pm \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**County Treasurers Networking facilitated by Sherri Davidson (CAMGA Treasurer)**

Networking opportunity for current, former, and future Treasurers. In this roundtable-style discussion, we will share the accounting methods used, experiences with becoming 501(c)(3)s, and additional resources identified. Bring your knowledge and/or questions for the group.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:00 pm No Charge \$ NC

**Total Workshop Fees** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Total Conference Fees**

Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

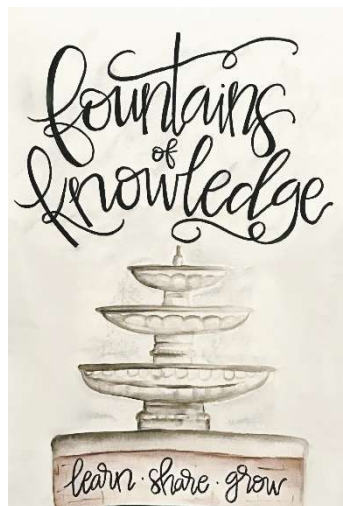
T-Shirt \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tour and Lunch fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Fees Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**8. To Register:** Online registration is preferred. To register and pay online by credit card, click on link: <https://req.planetreg.com/AMGA2025>

**NOTE: A personal PayPal account is NOT required to register online. PayPal is the credit card processing service and will accept VISA and MasterCard.**

**To Register and Pay by Check: Please make checks payable to AMGA and mail along with this completed form to:**

**AMGA  
Conference Registration  
c/o 139 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Prattville, AL 36067**

Please allow two weeks to receive email confirmation of your registration. It is your responsibility to confirm receipt of your registration. Please email [alabamamga.conference@gmail.com](mailto:alabamamga.conference@gmail.com) or phone/text (334) 462-1383 if you have not received confirmation of your registration.

**9. Photo Policy:** Photos will be taken periodically of participants during our tours, workshops, Meet and Greet reception, and at the church facility throughout this Conference. These photos are intended for use by AMGA and ACMGA and may be included in flyers, brochures, or on our websites. If you have any questions regarding this policy, contact Sondra Henley at [alabamamga.conference@gmail.com](mailto:alabamamga.conference@gmail.com) or (205) 567-3333.

#### **10. Cancellation and Refund Policy**

Please take a moment to review the following **Cancellation and Refund Policy**. This policy applies to all 2025 AMGA State Conference registrations, and by registering for the conference, attendees agree to comply with this policy.

##### **Cancellation Periods:**

- If you cancel **on or before March 1**. We will refund all conference fees except t-shirt orders or any PlanetReg and PayPal processing fees incurred at the time of registration.
- If you cancel **after March 1**, we will review your refund request on a case-by-case basis. The ACMGA Conference Committee reserves the right to assess each cancellation request individually and make refund decisions accordingly.

##### **No-Refund Scenarios:**

- If you are a no-show, we will not consider you for a refund.
- We cannot refund registrant or guest meal costs, tour fees, or workshop fees **after March 1**.
- T-shirt orders cannot be refunded. Your t-shirt will be given to one of your association members who attend the conference so that it can be delivered to you.

##### **Process for Cancellation:**

- If you need to cancel. You must formally submit a cancellation letter and request a refund by contacting [alabamamga.conference@gmail.com](mailto:alabamamga.conference@gmail.com).
- Please include "**Registration Cancellation**" in the subject line.
- Include a short explanation of the situation necessitating your need to cancel.
- We will review your cancellation request within 14 days of receipt of and notify you via email of our decision and the refund amount due to you.

##### **Refund Disbursement:**

- **If your cancellation request is approved, your refund, in the form of a check, will be sent to you by the state AMGA Treasurer.**
- **We are unable to refund your credit card directly.**

#### **11. Hotel Accommodations:**

The following hotels have reserved blocks of rooms for conference attendees. All hotels are located near the event. Restaurants, shopping, Walmart, and Publix are near the hotels. All hotels are located off Interstate 65 at the two Prattville / Millbrook exits. Most are located off Interstate 65 at Exit 179, Prattville / Millbrook exit. The Conference rate is available until **March 3, 2025**. All block dates are April 3 – 4, 2025.

Should you need additional dates, the discount rates may not be available. Some hotels may extend their discounted rates. You will not be able to extend your date via the hotel links below. Your best option is to make your reservations for the block dates and call our hotel assistance line at (334) 430-5838 or email any questions to [tandimitchell1@gmail.com](mailto:tandimitchell1@gmail.com).

### **Avid Hotel by HIG**

802 Boardroom Dr.  
Prattville AL 36066

Rate \$149.00 Per night, plus tax

Phone – (334) 280-9070 For reservation made by phone - Booking code (**AL Gardening Assoc.**) group block. Breakfast included.

Booking link - [AL MASTER GARDENING](#)

### **Courtyard by Marriott**

2620 Legends Pkwy  
Prattville, AL. 36066

Rate \$149 Per night, plus tax

Phone (334) 290-1270 For reservations by phone – booking code **NGASSC**

Breakfast included.

Booking link <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/nationalgardeningassociationapril2025/>

### **Days Inn**

600 Old Farm Lane South  
Prattville, AL. 36066

Rate \$140.00 per night, plus tax

(334) 285-5312 for reservation by phone – booking code (**AL Gardening Assoc. group block**)

Breakfast included.

There is no booking link available. You will need to call the hotel to make a reservation.

### **Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton**

2590 Cobbs Ford Road  
Prattville, AL. 36066

Rate \$159.00 per night – plus tax

Phone (334) 285-6767 For reservation by phone – booking code **AGA**

Breakfast is included.

[Reservation Booking Link- Hampton Inn Prattville AL](#)

### **Holiday Inn Express**

203 Legends Court  
Prattville, AL 36066

Rate \$140 per night plus tax

Phone (334) 290-2970 For reservations by phone – booking code (Al Gardening Assoc, group block)

Breakfast included

Click on the link below.

Scroll down till you see Dates “View prices.”

Put in the block dates of 4/3/25 – 4/5/25 **FYI** you must put in the dates.

The dates showing will be today’s current dates.

You must change the dates to 4/3/25 – 4/5/25 unless you are only staying one night within these dates.

Put in the one-night date according to your stay. Click, “View prices”

The page will refresh – double check you date to make sure they are correct.

Click on room type “Select.”

Page will refresh. Fill in the reservation information.

<https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=PVLEX& PMID=99801505&GPC=GAR&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

FYI – Home 2 Suites is the only hotel that offers rooms via the booking link for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights in case you are staying an extra night.

### **Home 2 Suites**

2505 Legends Dr.

Prattville, AL 36066

Rate \$155.00 per night, plus tax

Phone (334) 551-2900 – For reservations by phone – booking code. (**Alabama Gardening Assoc.**)

Breakfast included

Instructions for Home 2 Suites booking link only.

Click on the link below.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=MGMPHT&groupCode=CHTGAR&arrivaldate=2025-04-03&departuredate=2025-04-06&flexibleDates=true&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Click on the \$159 rate box. **FYI**, you do not need to click on check out dates on this page.

Page will refresh.

Click on Edit stay unless you are staying 3 nights Thurs. Fri. and Sat. You must change the dates if you are not staying all 3 nights.

Click on your check in date and check out date.

Click Done

Click update.

Page will refresh and take you to the reservation information page.

Please look at the top of the page to double check dates are correct.

Fill in all the information that applies to your stay.

FYI – the email address you provide is where you email confirmation will be sent.

### **LaQuinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham**

261 Interstate Hwy Park Loop

Prattville, AL. 36066

Rate \$139.00 per night plus tax

Phone (334) 358-5454 for reservations by phone – booking code. (**AL Gardening Assoc. Group block**)

Breakfast included

A booking link is not available at this hotel. Reservation by phone only.

### **SpringHill Suites by Marriott**

100 Hospitality Lane

Millbrook, AL 36065

This hotel is located on the other side of the Interstate. It is the same exit as the other hotels

Rate \$169.00 per night, plus tax

Phone (334) 285-9549 For reservations by phone – booking code- **NGASSC**

[Book your group rate for Alabama Master Gardeners April 2025](#)

### **Tru By Hilton**

2633 Legends Dr.

Prattville, AL 36066

Rate \$149.00 per night plus tax

Phone (334) 595-5300 For reservations by phone – booking code – **NGASSC**

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/nationalgardeningassociationapril2025/>

If you need a room for Wednesday or Saturday at any other hotel you will need to call (334) 430-5838 to check rates and availability.

### **RV Accommodations:**

#### **Gunter Hill – Montgomery**

561 Booth Road

Montgomery, AL 36108, (334) 269-1053

#### **Ft. Toulouse – Wetumpka**

2521 W. Fort Toulouse Road

Wetumpka, AL 36093, (334) 567-3002



## 12. Pre-Conference Tour Descriptions



**Wilderness Bamboo Park (Self-Guided)** – 800 Upper Kingston Road, Prattville - Hidden away in Wilderness Park, located in Prattville, is a beautiful bamboo forest that was once used by the U.S. military during the Vietnam era. And in 1982, it became the first park of its kind developed inside city limits in the United States. Many areas of this park have bamboo stalks as tall as 60 feet, and with a trunk diameter of 6 inches. Besides bamboo, several other varieties of plants can be found within the forest, including Alabama's second largest beech tree. It is open from sunrise to sunset.



**ACMGA Demonstration Garden (Self-Guided)** — 254 Doster Street This garden site is leased from the City of Prattville by ACMGA. All produce grown here is donated to AICC (Autauga Interfaith Care Center) It is open during daylight hours.



**ACMGA Prattvillage Garden (Self-Guided)** – 143 First Street  
A historic chapel stands prominent in this garden. The circa 1840's flower and herb gardens are maintained on Tuesday mornings. This garden site is privately owned and leased by ACMGA. It is open during daylight hours.  
**10:00 am** Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist and a Master Gardener, will be in the Prattvillage Garden, demonstrating the use of natural elements in the garden. Demonstration of one or more arbors, fencing, ladders, obelisks, etc. from natural elements. There is no charge for the class and is limited to 25 participants.



**Lanark Wildlife Tour** - 3050 Lanark Road, Millbrook, AL 36054  
Maria Pacheco – Guide

**10:00 am - 11:30 am** Tour of Historic House and heirloom garden. Limit 25 - \$5.00 per person

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm** Tour of Historic House and heirloom garden. Limit 25 - \$5.00 per person

Directions: Follow E. Main Street/Cobbs Ford Road over I-65 to S.

Edgewood Dr. turn Left; Turn Right onto Edgewood Road; Turn Left on Lanark Road; Go straight down Lanark Road to white gate at end of road; Stay on paved road, go through gate; Drive downhill to the big white house on Right.



**Petals from the Past** - 16034 County Road 29, Jemison  
Petals from the Past Inc., a premier nursery in the Southeast, specializes in antique roses, heirloom shrubs and difficult to find perennial flowers and herbs.  
**The tour is approximately 45 minutes from the First Baptist Church in Prattville. Plan accordingly as the tour and travel time will require approximately 3.5 hours. Also, if you have lunch there, add at least 30 – 45 minutes to your travel time.**

**10:00 am- 12:00 pm** Tour of Display Gardens with an option for lunch.

The tour is limited to 50 participants. There is no charge for the tour. You may purchase lunch when you register. The lunch fee is \$20.00. Lunch is served with

fresh fruit, oatmeal crisp cookie, sweet or unsweet tea. You will have a choice of Chicken Salad Croissant, Club Sandwich, or Salad Trio.



### 13. Pre-Conference Workshops Description



**Painted Apron** - Janelle Diggs (AMGA Member at Large/Capital City MGA)

Two Sessions: 10:00 am - 11:30 am and 1:00pm - 2:30 pm

12 participants each session - Class fee: \$30

Room: 208 Upstairs (elevator access)

You will decorate a hand-sewn apron by filling terra cotta inspired pockets with stamped flowers and leaves. Learn how to use fabric ink and extra-large stamps to create your own one-of-a-kind wearable masterpiece. All materials will be provided.



**Magnolia Blossom** – Diane Wonderly (ACMGA)

Two Sessions: 10:00 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

25 participants per session, Class fee: \$20.00

Materials provided

Room: 210 Upstairs (elevator access)

You will learn to make one lovely magnolia blossom from latex balloons. An instruction sheet will be available to take home to make more.



**Floral Design Techniques** - Mallory Kelley (ACES Regional Extension Agent)

Two Sessions: 10:00am - 11:30 am and 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

25 participants per session

Class fee: Free

Floral Techniques Demonstrated

Room: 212 Upstairs (elevator access)



**Artwork: Resin Butterfly** - Jesaca Wilson (Conference Artist)

One Session: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

50 participants, Class fee: \$45.00

Materials provided

Held at Pzazz Art Studio, 1812 Glynwood Drive, Prattville

Please arrive 15 minutes before start time.

Resin takes 24+ hours to dry and cannot be moved. Your dried artwork will be ready to be picked up Saturday at Pzazz between 11:30-1:30.



**Whimsical Garden Art** - Elaine Densmore (Ret. ACES Admin. Support Assoc./ Chilton)

Two Sessions: 10:00 am -11:30 am and 1:00 pm -2:30 pm

20 participants per session

Class fee: \$20.00

Materials provided, extra glue to take home

Room: 214 Upstairs (elevator access)



You will be provided a “kit” with items to make a glass garden art flower. Individual E6000 glue and a small glass jar that adheres to the back of the flower will be provided. Your flower can be hung on a fence post or pipe or displayed on a table. (Pipe/rebar not provided) Other art creations will be displayed.



**County Treasurers Networking Time** - Sherri Davidson, Facilitator (CAMGA Treasurer)

One Session: 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm

Room 217 upstairs (elevator access)

Networking opportunity for current, former, and future Treasurers. In this roundtable-style facilitated discussion we will share accounting methods used, experiences with becoming 501(c)(3)s, and additional resources identified. Bring your knowledge and/or questions for the group.

## 14. FEATURED SPEAKERS

### Joe Lamp’l – Thursday Speaker - The Ecological Gardening Blueprint: 10 Essential Steps That Matter Most



Joe Lamp’l’s (aka joe gardener®) infatuation with gardening and nature began as a child. After a run-in with his parents’ favorite shrub, he panicked and jammed the broken branch into the ground. A few weeks later, it had taken root. Joe was not only relieved; he was also hooked on horticulture.

As one of the country’s most recognized and trusted personalities in gardening and green-living, Joe’s passion for living a greener life is evident to a nationwide audience who turns to him for gardening advice through his new **joe gardener Online Gardening Academy™** and watches him in his current role as Creator, Executive Producer and Host of the Emmy-award-winning PBS series, **Growing a Greener**

**World®** and, previously, as host of *Fresh from the Garden* on DIY Network and *more*. Joe also shares his know-how on NBC’s *TODAY*, ABC’s *Good Morning America*, The Weather Channel and through his popular books, podcast series – **The joegardener Show**, and more.

Past awards include: The American Horticultural Society selected Joe as the recipient of the Society’s B.Y. Morrison Communication Award, which recognizes effective and inspirational communication—through print, radio, television, and online media. Multi-award winner for Best On-Air Talent for Television by the Garden Writers Association, and The Taste Awards for Breakout Storyteller of the Year, Best Environmental Television, Series, Film or Video, Best Branded Television Series in 2016 and their coveted Pioneer Award in 2017. In 2018, *Growing a Greener World* was awarded a Daytime Emmy for Best Lifestyle Program.

Joe is the founder and “Joe” behind **joegardener.com** – a gardening-intensive website with a focus on how-to videos, podcasts, online courses, and blog posts around the most popular topics gardeners want to know.

Overseeing these endeavors and more is Agrivana® Media, LLC, a company devoted to creating quality broadcast and online content to inspire and promote environmental stewardship around the world. Joe is deeply committed to “growing a greener world” through his television series, courses, websites, podcasts, how-to videos, books (including *The Green Gardener’s Guide*), and more. When not filming, speaking or writing about gardening and living green, Joe can likely be found in and around his organic garden and spending time with his family on their Atlanta, GA farm.

### Wesley Anderson – Friday Speaker – Bluebirds And Their Habitat



Wesley M. Anderson is an assistant professor in the College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Environment at Auburn University. He is also a wildlife specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He earned his B.S. from Davidson College and M.S. from Texas Tech University. Prior to arriving at Auburn, he earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida where his dissertation focused on wild pig impacts to wetlands, herpetofauna, and other aquatic organisms. Broadly, he is interested in nongame conservation, citizen science, environmental education, and invasive species management. He is currently the program coordinator for the Alabama Master Naturalist program.

## **Betsy Smith – Friday Speaker – Opening the Gift of Herbs With Kids**



Betsy Smith and her husband Darin live on ten acres in Clanton, Alabama with their 5 dogs and 1 cat. They have 5 children and 8 grandchildren. She holds a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from Samford University and retired in 2018 from a 32-year career in public education as a teacher and elementary school principal.

After retiring, Betsy enrolled in the Extension Master Gardener Program. She has served as Chilton County Master Gardeners Association Vice President and attended Alabama Master Gardener College Leadership Training. She assists in leading the intern class for new interns and is a part of the Chilton County Master Gardeners Conservation Group that works to promote education and awareness of rare native

plant species growing in, or around Chilton County, Alabama. The group propagates plant material, works on plant site identification and community education.

In addition to being a Master Gardener, she teaches English as a second language virtual to students in other countries, teaches yoga and quilts.

Betsy is especially fond of herbs. She has her Advanced Master Gardener Certification in Herbs and serves as the President of The Herb Society of America. Betsy's motto is, "Growing Learners, Growing Leaders," to promote the mission to encourage the knowledge, use and delight of plants through education. She believes kids can also be learners and leaders in the garden.

One of her favorite ways to use herbs is to take fresh herbs from her garden to the yoga classes she teaches so her students can delight in the fresh scent of the herbs while practicing yoga.

## **Grover Plunkett, M.A. – Friday evening speaker – Agribusiness, Where We Have Been And Where We Are Going**



Grover Plunkett received his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Alabama in 1980 and enjoyed a 30-year career in business. In 2008, he received his master's degree in post-secondary education with emphasis in history from Troy University and pursued his love for teaching. He taught history at Faulkner University and Alabama State University, as an adjunct instructor, until 2012, while pursuing a master's degree in liberal arts at Faulkner University. He earned a master's degree in political science from Auburn University Montgomery in 2013. While at Auburn University Montgomery, he was named Khalid bin Sultan Research Fellow and researched American Foreign Policy

initiatives for Cuba, as well as the effects of democratization in American society. In January 2012, he became assistant professor of history and political science at Faulkner University. He is presently earning a Ph.D. in international relations and economics at Auburn University and his research efforts include studies in the growth of capitalism in state-controlled markets, as well as the role of government in reversing the economic decline in American cities.



## **Jason Reeves – Friday Speaker – Friends in the Shade and Keeping Your Hostas Company - Saturday Speaker – The Making of a Garden**



Jason Reeves grew up on a farm in West Tennessee, where he fell in love with the plant world. He received his Master's degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In 2002, he became a research horticulturist and curator of the University of Tennessee Gardens located at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson, Tennessee. Jason's colorful plant combinations and unique garden art, made by recycling everyday objects, draws several thousand people to the Center's annual lawn and garden show, Summer Celebration. His past experiences include work at the Opryland Conservatories in Nashville, Missouri Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, and in private gardens in New Zealand. When he's not bringing the grounds to life with his imaginative garden displays, he's evaluating hundreds of new and unique plants for the state's green industry. He also speaks at gardening symposiums, travels the world leading gardening tours, and serving as a contributing editor for Fine Gardening magazine. Additionally, he is a landscape designer and consultant, and his influence can be seen in landscapes across Tennessee through distinct plant combinations. You can follow him on Facebook at Jason Reeves – In the Garden.

## **Laura Perry Johnson, Associate Dean for Extension, University of Georgia Saturday Speaker - Leadership Presentation**



Laura Perry Johnson is Associate Dean of University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, the outreach arm of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. UGA Extension is a federal, state and local partnership that makes an impact at the county level, enacting the university's research discoveries to foster a healthy and prosperous Georgia for farmers, families and communities.

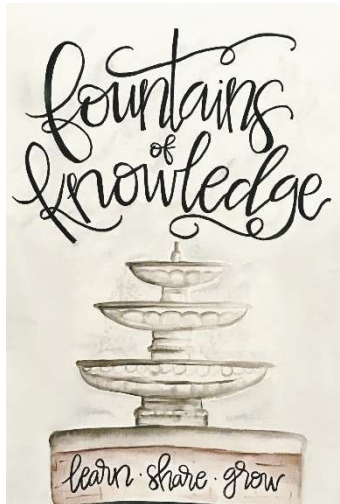
Johnson has helped to facilitate UGA Extension's outreach initiatives for more than 30 years, including her current tenure as head of the organization. UGA Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development programs propel the state's economically important industries and serve the needs of residents across generations. During her time as head of the organization, both rural and urban programs have flourished, communication and funding have increased, and impact assessments have hit major strides.

Johnson has won numerous honors, including the National Annie E. Casey Award, the National 4-H Program of Distinction, and the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' Diversity Award. In addition to the continuous in-state presentations that have come to define her career in outreach, Johnson has been invited to speak at dozens of national conferences, including talks on Extension's relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, AmeriCorps VISTA programs, leveraging county dollars and diversifying resources, and finding success in volunteer-led organizations. She co-chaired the strategic planning process for the college and serves in a leadership capacity in numerous organizations.

Johnson began working with UGA Extension as the statewide 4-H livestock specialist in 1993. Through her work with Georgia 4-H, Johnson realized her passion for public service, and the state's 4-H livestock and horse programs thrived as a result. While in this position, Johnson was recognized with the Outstanding New State Staff Award from the Georgia Association of 4-H Agents, and she went on to become the 4-H program development coordinator for UGA Extension's Southwest District in 2002. From there, she was appointed to lead the Southwest District Extension programs for 41 counties, comprising the biggest row crop agriculture area of Georgia. Under Johnson's direction, the Southwest District

topped the state in new agent recruits and increased both state and county funding. She was appointed director of UGA Extension in 2014 and began leading the organization at the start of the following year.

Johnson is a three-time graduate of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. She has earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in animal science, specializing in meat and muscle biology. As a part of a seventh-generation cattle and row crop farm in Moultrie, Georgia, agriculture has always been a part of her life. Laura and her husband Scott have two young adult children, Bill and Libba, both of whom work in agricultural related careers.



## **2025 AMGA State Conference Agenda**

### **Fountains of Knowledge Learn, Share, Grow**

**April 3 – 5, 2025**

**Prattville, Alabama**

#### **Thursday, April 3, 2025**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m.    | Registration check in open  |
| 9:00 – 12:00 | Tours – Off campus<br>Workshops - Second Floor and off campus   |
| 12:00 – 3:15 | Vendors and Silent Auction open   |
| 1:00 – 3:00  | Workshops - Second Floor and off campus<br>Tours – Off campus   |
| 3:15         | Silent Auction closes   |
| 3:30 – 4:30  | Joe Lamp'l Presentation - <u><i>The Ecological Gardening Blueprint: 10 Essential Steps That Matter Most</i></u>                           |
| 5:00 – 6:30  | Meet and Greet at Prattvillage- <i>Celebrating 30 years as a Public Garden-Designed and Maintained by Autauga County Master Gardeners</i> |



## Friday, April 4, 2025

- 8:00 a.m. Registration/Vendors/Silent Auction open
- 8:50 Silent Auction closes
- 9:00 Conference Opens – Master of Ceremonies
- Welcome from Mayor
  - Welcome from FBC Pastor
- 9:30 – 10:30 Wesley Anderson, PhD Presentation - *Bluebirds and their Habitat*
- 9:30 – 11:00 Break / Vendors/Silent Auction
- 11:00 – 12:00 Betsy Smith – *Open the Gift of Herbs with Kids*
- 12:00 Luncheon Prayer and Instructions
- 12:00 – 1:15 Lunch/Vendors/Silent Auction
- 1:30 – 3:00 AMGA Business Meeting
- 3:00 – 3:30 Break/Vendors/Silent Auction
- 3:30 – 4:30 Jason Reeves - *Friends in the Shade: Keeping Your Hosta Company*
- 4:30 – 5:00 Break - Vendors and Silent Auction
- 5:00 Silent Auction closes – Last bids taken
- 5:00 – 6:30 Dinner
- 6:30 – 7:30 Grover Plunkett – *Agribusiness /Regenerative Farming*

## Saturday, April 5, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Opening remarks
- 9:00 – 10:00 Jason Reeves – *The Making of a Garden*
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break or Pre-pay for Silent Auctions
- 10:30 – 11:30 Leadership Speaker- Laura Thompson Perry, PhD *Leadership Presentation*
- 11:30 am Instructions for Silent Auction and Door Prize pick ups
- Adjourn