

# PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

## TOURS

### U.S. SPACE AND ROCKET CENTER

Most comprehensive manned spaceflight hardware museum in the world

### HUDSON ALPHA INSTITUTE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

Genomic research, educational outreach, clinical genomics & economic development

### HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Extension Master Gardener demonstrations & Walking Tour with Harvey Cotten  
Free garden admission 9am-6pm, Wed, May 6

## WORKSHOPS

Morning & afternoon garden-related workshops at Murray Hall at the Huntsville Botanical Garden

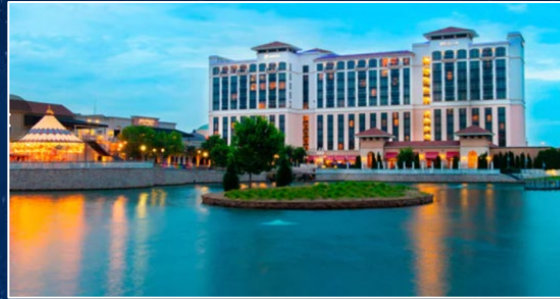
## LOCAL HEROES

MEET & GREET PHOTO OP

USAF Lt. Colonel Ed Yielding  
SR-71 Blackbird pilot &  
“fastest man on earth” in 1990

Brigadier General (Ret) Robert Stewart  
Astronaut & Pilot– 289 hours in space and first astronaut to walk untethered in space

Soar to new heights at the  
AMGA 2026 State Conference at  
the Westin Huntsville!



The Westin blends elegance and southern hospitality with the world class shopping, dining, and entertainment of

### BRIDGE STREET TOWN CENTRE

6800 Governors Road NW

### CONFERENCE LOCATION:

The Westin Ballroom

### CONFERENCE HOTELS:

The Westin Huntsville and  
The Element on the top floors

Centrally located near highways and  
conference tours & workshops



*Please join us!*

# AMGA

## State Conference

# 2026

## May 6-8, 2026

## Huntsville

Hosted by the Extension  
Master Gardener Associations  
of Limestone, Madison, and Morgan  
Counties

# Inspiring Speakers | Informative Topics

## Creating Biodiversity Through Creative Gardening Concepts

Conference Objective: To provide new ideas garnered from tours, workshops, and speakers to enhance outreach activities throughout the state

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

#### Doug Tallamy

Nationally known University of Delaware professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, NY Times best-selling author and co-founder of Homegrown National Park

Conference Topic:

#### HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK

Learn how we can make small changes that will create diverse ecosystems in our yards & communities by reducing lawns, planting native plants, and removing harmful invasives.

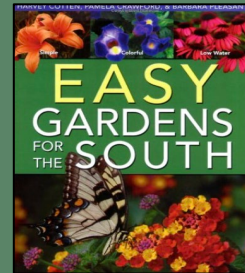
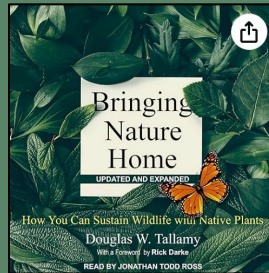
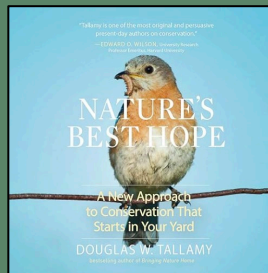
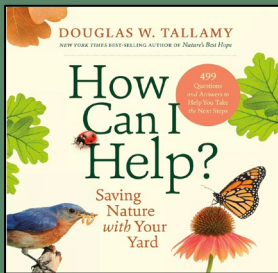


#### Harvey Cotten

Director Emeritus of the Alabama Nurserymen's Association, former COO and chief horticulturalist at the Huntsville Botanical Garden & co-author of Easy Gardens for the South

Conference Topic:

WHAT'S NEW in 2026:  
MUST HAVES FOR YOUR GARDEN!



#### Jesse Akozbek

Creator & Hike Lead for Feral Foraging

#### Darryl Patton

The Southern Herbalist

#### Edward Pate

Grow More, Give More: Galactic Benefits for School Gardens

#### Patrick Thompson

Curator of oaks & deciduous azaleas at Davis Arboretum

#### Cindy Upton

NASA: Gardening in Space