

Pre-conference Tour Descriptions

Wednesday Tours, May 6, 2026:

Tours are at various locations and times. Please note that some tours have a cost associated with the activity.

***Tour#1: Walk Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG) with Harvey Cotten, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, check-in Murray Hall, limited to 35 people.
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue Huntsville, 35805**

Meet Harvey at the Cherry Circle, a short walk from the Propst Guest Center, for an informative and historical walk through the Gardens. Mr. Cotten was the Chief Horticulturist at the Garden from its inception and was featured in the Huntsville Times' Living section called Dear Harvey, where he answered gardening questions weekly, for many years. He also had a weekly TV spot full of gardening tips and pertinent information. Come with questions, because he's sure to have an answer!

***Tour#2: Hudson Alpha Greenhouse, 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM, check-in at Hudson Alpha GH, limited to 25 people for each tour session.
601 Genome Way Huntsville, 35806**

Get a behind the scenes guided tour of Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology's 14,000-square-foot glass greenhouse. The highly sophisticated facility is equipped with two lab spaces, seven grow rooms with fifteen-foot ceilings, and several technologically advanced features rarely found in other greenhouses. The facility will help researchers in the Hudson Alpha Center for Plant Science and Sustainable Agriculture (Plant Center) advance their mission to use genomics to help sustainably feed and fuel our planet.

***Tour#3: US Space & Rocket Center, 1:00 PM-3:30 PM, \$20, check-in at USSRC, limited to 45 people. 1 Tranquility Base Huntsville, 35805**

Take a self-guided tour of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, a museum operated by the state of Alabama, showcasing rockets, achievements, and artifacts of the U.S. space program.

***Tour#4: Bonnie Plants, 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM, check-in at Bonnie Plants, limited to 25 people for each tour session.
1601 South Monroe Street Athens 35611**

Take a guided tour of the Bonnie Plant Farm greenhouse range in Athens, Alabama, a short drive from Huntsville. Today, Bonnie Plants are available in all 50 states (plus Canada) and come in nearly 300 varieties (including Organics!), many of which have been test-grown in their own garden in Union Springs, Alabama. Bonnie Plants don't travel far to make it to you, either, as they now have over 70 growing stations across the country.

***Tour#5: Harvest Square Nature Preserve, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, \$50, limited to 15 people. 111 Allyson Sadie Boulevard Harvest 35749**

Go on a guided foraging walk with conference speaker Jesse Akozbek, founder of Feral Foraging, an organization dedicated to educating others about safely foraging for wild edibles. Jesse's website states the purpose of his company is:

To create a world with more foragers who are deeply connected with their land and inspired to defend it, thus carving a path to reverse the loss of natural habitat.

***Tour#6: Herb & Terry Lewis' Garden, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, check-in at their address, limited to 25 people. 1709 Montdale Road Huntsville 35801**

Herb and Terry Lewis, honorary Master Gardeners, have turned their backyard into a birding oasis complete with water features, time tested feeders, and walking paths all within a carefully curated habitat of ornamental and native plants. Together the Lewis' have spread their love of gardening and their bird watching enthusiasm to HBG where you can stroll the Lewis Birding Trail and explore Tweetsville, to Hudson Alpha's Terry and Herb Lewis Demonstration Garden, and bird blinds built for the Land Trust of North Alabama. While this is a self-guided experience the Lewis' will be on hand to answer questions.

***Tour#7: Tram tour of HBG for AMGA Board of Directors, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, limited to 24 people.**

Huntsville Botanical Garden staff will drive the AMGA Board members through the Garden on a narrated tram tour lasting 1 hour. This will be both informative and visually special as you travel to the best of the Garden's Naturally Delightful environment. Meet your driver in the Atrium of the Prost Guest Center.