

## **Pre-conference Demonstrations and Workshops**

### **Wednesday Workshops:**

**Workshop space is limited. There is a charge for workshops #1 & #2. The workshops are held at Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG), Murray Hall. 4747 Bob Wallace Avenue Huntsville, 35805**

**9:00 AM-10:30 AM: \*WS#1, Hydroponics, Murray Hall, \$35, 35 people**

*Discover how to take your gardening skills to the next level with hydroponics! This hands-on workshop will introduce the fundamentals of soilless growing systems. Learn how hydroponics can be adapted for both small-scale home use and educational or community garden projects. Participants will also build and take home their own mini deep water culture hydroponic system to continue exploring at home. Whether you're a seasoned Master Gardener or just curious about innovative growing methods, this session will equip you with practical knowledge and inspiration to bring hydroponics to life in your own home or garden. Taught by Regional Extension Agent Brian Brown.*

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM: \*WS#2, Floral Arrangement, Murray Hall, \$35, 30 people**

*Join us for a fun, flower-filled workshop of creativity! You'll learn the essentials of floral design from home horticulture agent Lilly Oaks. Experiment with color and texture, and build your own beautiful arrangement to bring home and enjoy.*

**2:00 PM-2:45 PM: \*WS#3, Social Media Guidelines for MG, Free, 45 people**

*How can you get the word out to your community about what Extension Master Gardeners do, who we are, and how they can become involved? Social Media! This workshop will cover purpose, tips for effective posting, samples, and a Q&A time. While the workshop will focus primarily on the use of Facebook, the information can be applied to a variety of social media platforms. Taught by MGNA Member Anita Reeves.*

### **Wednesday Demonstrations:**

**Demonstrations are no-charge, at HBG, and are all 30 minutes in length and limited to 30 people each. Start times for each are 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM, and 12:30 PM.**

**\*Demonstration #1: Vegetable Garden, check-in Murray Hall**

*The Demonstration Vegetable Garden, maintained by the Master Gardeners of North Alabama, showcases various gardening styles like traditional row, wide row, raised bed, and square-foot*

*gardening. It features a collection of All America Selections and heirloom vegetables suitable for the region. The garden not only produces a bounty of vegetables donated to local organizations, but also demonstrates composting techniques, offering valuable insights for home gardeners.*

**\*Demonstration #2: Fern Glade, check-in Murray Hall**

*The Fern Glade is a serene area showcasing nearly 150 species of ferns along winding paths. This shady oasis, located at the Nature Trail's northern end, features both deciduous and evergreen ferns that thrive in the region. Notable species include the Christmas Fern and the Cinnamon Fern. The glade also features a waterfall, and, belvedere, enhancing the tranquil atmosphere.*

**\*Demonstration #3: Herb Garden, check-in Murray Hall**

*The Herb Garden spans a quarter-acre and features 13 themed gardens alongside a charming herb cottage. Central to the garden is a Knot Garden, with beds designed for accessibility. Themes range from Culinary to Fragrance, with a special Tussie Mussie bed conveying messages through the language of flowers. Maintained by the Huntsville Herb Society, the garden is a living showcase of herbs' rich history and utility.*

**\*Demonstration #4: Daylily Garden, check-in Murray Hall**

*The Van Valkenburgh Daylily Garden is a display recognized by the American Hemerocallis Society. It boasts more than 700 cultivars, offering a rich tapestry of colors, sizes, and forms. Each plant is labeled with its cultivar name and hybridizer, and the collection is continually updated with new cultivars. The peak bloom season starts in late May, reaching its zenith in mid-June, and continues with reblooms until frost.*

**\*Demonstration #5: Grubbers, check-in Murray Hall**

*The Mathews Nature Trail takes visitors through a southeastern lowland forest, showcasing a variety of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. It's known for its seasonal beauty, with spring wildflowers, summer blooms, and vibrant fall foliage. The trail is maintained by the "Grubbers".*