

Alabama Master Gardener Association 20th Annual Conference

March 18-20, 2010

*Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa
at the Convention Center*



The 2010 Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference will provide outstanding and exciting learning opportunities for both the seasoned and the novice gardener, but will also offer options to see and enjoy our beautiful capital city.

The official conference hotel for the 20th annual AMGA conference is the magnificent Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center in the heart of the downtown historic Riverfront Development area. This impressive, four-star masterpiece will provide world-class amenities for lodging, dining and conference activities. The hotel has offered us an excellent rate. Since the conference is open to the general public, make your reservations early.

The conference program includes roundtable discussions, hands-on workshops, outstanding educational and entertaining presentations and interesting tours. The first evening offers the opportunity to dine at the renowned Capital City Club with its famous view of the twinkling city and exceptional cuisine.

Pre-conference activities begin at noon on Thursday. The conference begins at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel on Friday morning, March 19.

The theme of the conference, *Gardening... A Capital Idea!*, illustrates the importance that public gardens and public open spaces make to the quality of life in our communities and the valuable contribution made by volunteers. Speakers will inspire Master Gardener volunteers to renew their commitment to becoming integral players in their communities, contributing to the very existence of beautiful public spaces. The sessions will apply to home gardens and landscapes as well as public spaces.

There will be opportunities to shop with the vendors, view chapter exhibits, and bid on Silent Auction items. Plan to stay through Sunday and bring the family. There is so much to do before, during and after the conference. Montgomery is **your** capital city and is home to much of our state's history from the Civil War to Civil Rights and a whole lot more!

Featured Speakers



Dr. Doug Phillips is known widely for his highly-rated public television program *Discovering Alabama*, an educational documentary series featuring the natural history and natural wonders of

Alabama. He has pioneered many Alabama initiatives for education and conservation, including the acclaimed model school curriculum, *Discovering Our Heritage* and the nationally-recognized model for wild land conservation, *Alabama Forever Wild Program*. Dr. Phillips holds the position of Coordinator for Environmental Information and Education with the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama, where he has also authored national award-winning publications.



Mr. Steve Bender is a Senior Writer for Southern Living Magazine. His articles in Southern Living, which often poke fun at the foibles of gardeners, have won many writing awards. In 2008 he began his popular Southern Living blog, "The Grumpy Gardener." Mr. Benders's books include: *Pass-a-long Plants*, *Callaway Gardens --*

Legacy of a Dream. In 1998, he edited the *Southern Living Garden Book*, which described more than 5,000 plants. His next book, *Southern Living Problem Solver*, helps gardeners identify and control common garden pests. The third book, *The Southern Living Landscape Book*, deals with garden design. He has won the American Horticultural Society's Horticultural Communication Award, and the Garden Writers Association Gold Medal for magazine writing