

# AMGA Conference Schedule

## THURSDAY

**12:00-5:00 Registration, Vendor Area Open**

**12:30-2:00 Round Table Discussions**

Meet your counterparts from other local associations, review job requirements, and share success stories and lessons learned. Choose from the following: Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Newsletter Editors, Advisory Council Representatives, and Committees for Volunteer Projects, Membership-Database, Programs, Fundraising/Publicity, Helplines or Master Gardener Classes, and ACES agents.

**2:00-4:00 Pre-conference Workshops**

**(1) Home-Grown Garden Critters: Painted Metal Yard Art, Make and Take** – Let your creative juices flow and paint a dragon-fly or frog yard sculpture out of heavy-gauge metal. The dragonflies stand upright on a metal rod and the frogs sit on the ground. The approximately 17" x 20" pieces come primed with a coat of black. All supplies furnished.

**(2) Enjoying the Fruits of Our Labors, THE Sister Schubert** and her sister, Charlotte Wood, Bake and Enjoy - Participants will receive instructions from the expert to make their individual serving of focaccia bread and learn how to make Blueberry Trifle. Top the afternoon off with an herbal tea party as you eat the "Fruits of Your Labor" while being entertained by stories from Sister Shubert. You will receive baking tips and recipes.

**(3) Harvesting the Rain, Make and Take** – Learn more about water conservation, protecting Alabama rivers, rain-water harvesting, and the construction of a rain barrel. You will leave with a greater appreciation of Alabama's natural resources and a 35-gallon rain barrel, approximately 19" X 34", for your home use.

**(4) The Art of Bonsai Plants, Make and Take** – Learn the techniques of potting, pruning, training, and maintaining a bonsai plant. You will receive: expert instructions, a dwarf evergreen plant, ceramic planter, soil and moss, craft scissors, and printed and detailed instructions.

**2:00-4:00 Pre-conference Tours**

**(5) Montgomery's Riverfront Development** – History and Tour. Hear from the visionaries active in the transformation of once decimated land along the Alabama River into a vibrant riverwalk. View "before" photos and take a guided walking tour of the beautiful Montgomery Riverwalk and hear the "rest of the story."

**(6) Alabama Governors Mansion and Gardens** – Guided Tour. The mansion blends Colonial style architecture with Greek revival influences. Built in 1906, it has been home to the Governor of Alabama since 1950. Enjoy a tour of the home and gardens, including the area designed, planted and maintained by the Capital City Master Gardener Association. 1142 Perry Street. [www.firstlady.alabama.gov/default.htm](http://www.firstlady.alabama.gov/default.htm)

**(7) Alabama State Capitol and Alabama Department of Archives and History** – Guided Tour of Both. Take a guided tour of our state capitol where Jefferson Davis took his oath of office as President of the CSA, and where the Civil Rights March ended with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivering a stirring speech. Cross the street for a tour of the Archives, which features both museum galleries and a genealogical research facility. 600 Dexter Avenue, [www.preserveala.org/capitoltour.htm](http://www.preserveala.org/capitoltour.htm), 624 Washington Avenue, [www.archives.state.al.us](http://www.archives.state.al.us)

**(8) Alabama Shakespeare Festival Garden and Theater Backstage** – Lecture and Guided Tour. This garden is one of seven gardens in the US featuring plants and flowers mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. **Karen Weber**, horticulturalist, and curator of the garden, will discuss Elizabethan gardening and conduct the tour. The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is one of the top ten Shakespeare theaters in the world. Take a special tour of the backstage areas of the theater. One Festival Dr. [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net) or [www.blountculturalpark.org](http://www.blountculturalpark.org)

**6:00 - 8:30 Stars Shine on Alabama,**  
Dinner and Entertainment,  
Capital City Club, 201 Monroe Street

Welcome

Henry Pugh, Jazz Pianist

**Ethel Dozier Anders**, Landscape Designer

*Plants don't always do what you tell them to!*

## FRIDAY

**8:00-9:00 Registration, Hotel Lobby  
Continental Breakfast and Vendors**

**9:00-10:15 Plenary Session**

**Welcome** – Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange

**Keynote Address** – **Dr. Doug Phillips**

*Alabama, the Grand Stage of Nature*

**10:15-10:30 Break, Vendors, Book Signing,  
Registration**

**10:30-11:45 AMGA Business Meeting,  
Election of Officers and Awards**

**12:00-1:00 Lunch**

**Presentation** - **Patsy Riley**, First Lady of

Alabama; **Mary Ann Neeley**, local historian;

**Robert Gamble**, architectural historian

*History of Alabama's Capitol and Grounds*

**12:00-1:00 Registration, Vendor Area Open**

**1:00-2:00 Breakout Sessions #1**

(All Breakout Sessions repeated at 2:30)

**(A) Changing Problem Areas into Natural**

**Beauties** – Learn the landscaping challenges of changing a privately owned home and grounds into a public garden, as well as pro-active design solutions where nature and human interaction might be in conflict. **Presenter: Chris Smith** has a degree in Landscape Design from Auburn University. He is Landscape Supervisor at Hills & Dales Estate.

**(B) The Latest and Greatest Gardening Trends**

– Discover the newest cultivars, especially dwarfs and miniatures. Learn how to make the best use of space: such as stacked container gardening, vertical gardening, and espalier training. **Presenter: Phil Easter**, a Master Gardener, has a Horticulture degree and has been in the business since college.

**(C) Gardening for the Birds, Creating a Wildlife**

**Habitat** – See the techniques of applying landscape gardening to create a natural wildlife habitat within urban settings, such as natural and supplemental feeding, plant shelter options, housing designs, and water. **Presenter: Herbert Lewis**, a retired engineer, now focuses on creating natural wildlife habitats.

**(D) Trees of Distinction for Public Spaces** –

Learn the best of the best trees for our public spaces and the basic requirements for their long-term enjoyment by our children. Also, a few irresistible tree treasures will be introduced from

the plant geek world. **Presenter: Dr. Ken Tilt**, an Extension Horticulturist at Auburn University, conducts research, and is involved in selection and evaluation of ornamental plants

**(E) Plant Selection and Maintenance for Urban Green Spaces** – Learn how to utilize

tough, proven plants for urban and infrequently maintained public spaces. Find out the planting and maintenance techniques to maximize the plant's effectiveness. **Presenter: Chuck Browne**, an Extension Coordinator, has degrees in Landscape Design and Nursery Production.

**(F) Landscaping with Herbs, Putting Spice in Your Life** – Learn how to design and create a

garden containing herbs as well as the different types of public herb gardens. Realize the importance of using native plants and how to make "beautiful dirt." **Presenter: Debbie Boutelieu** is a Master Gardener and has contributed over 4,000 volunteer hours. She now teaches organic gardening and herbs nationally.

**(G) A Pathway to Tranquility, Components of a Meditative Garden** – Learn the benefits of

meditative gardens to the gardener and the visitors who pause and reflect. Identify common elements and learn how to construct and maintain one.

**Presenter: Jerry Chenault**, an ACES agent, has visited and photographed over 25 different meditative gardens and authored "A Resource Manual for Faith Gardens."

**(H) Recipe for Success: Amending**

**Alabama Soil** – No matter where you live there are unique problems with your soil. Learn what makes soil more difficult to work with and what to do to improve "hardpackedredclayalabamadirt."

**Presenter: Dr. Charles Mitchell**, Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Soils, Auburn University.

**2:00-2:30 Break, Vendors, Book Signing**

**2:30-3:30 Breakout Sessions #2**

(All Breakout Sessions repeated from Session #1.)

**3:30-4:30 Vendors Open, Book Signing**

**6:00-6:30 Cash Bar and Networking**

**6:30- AMGA Awards Banquet**

**Featured Speaker** – **Steve Bender**

*Public Spaces... Beautiful Places*

**AMGA Annual Awards Presentation**

**Introduction - New AMGA Board Members**

## SATURDAY

### 7:30-8:00 Continental Breakfast and Vendor Area Open

### 8:00-9:15 Plenary Session Preview of 2011 AMGA Conference

**The Garden that Teaches** - Master Gardeners transformed neglected land into a garden that delights and teaches. **Presenters: Linda Griebel and Jane Mobley** of the Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association, Elmore County.

### 9:15-9:30 Break, Vendors, Book Signing

### 9:30-10:30 Adding Hardscape to the Landscape

— Learn to consider views from various angles, create a sequence of outdoor rooms, and extend the architectural style of existing structures into the garden. **Presenter: Nimrod Long, FASLA, LEED, AP**, has done landscape development for commercial, residential, and institutional properties.

### 10:30-11:45 Make Every Raindrop Count

— Learn how a rain garden filters pollutants; how to design and construct a rain garden; and the plants and flowers that flourish in this environment. **Presenters: Jessica Roberts and Kerry Smith.** Ms. Roberts, is a Biological and Agricultural Engineer with ACES. Ms. Smith is Program Coordinator, Alabama Master Gardener program; and co-leader, ACES Home Grounds team.

### 11:45-12:00 Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks Turn in Conference Evaluations

### 12:00-2:00 AMGA State Board Meeting

### 2:00-4:00 Saturday Afternoon Tours

**Old Alabama Town** — See over 40 structures depicting life in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Tour the Ordeman Shaw House grounds, an 1850s urban complex. Visit the period-appropriate gardens created by Capital City Master Gardener Association members. 301 Columbus St.  
[www.oldalabamatown.com](http://www.oldalabamatown.com)

**Old Cloverdale Home Gardens** — Enjoy a casual strolling through the private gardens of several homes in the historic Old Cloverdale neighborhood. Some of the loveliest gardens in the Capital City. [www.oldcloverdale.org](http://www.oldcloverdale.org)

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa  
at the Convention Center  
201 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Phone: (334) 481-5000 Toll Free: (877) 545-0311  
AMGA Conference Room Rate: \$129, single or double.  
Check-in time: 4:00 pm, Check-out time: 12:00 pm  
**To register:** call 877/545-0311. Ask for the "Alabama Master Gardener Association" group room block. Or, register on the web at  
[www.alabamamg.org/state\\_conference.asp](http://www.alabamamg.org/state_conference.asp)

### Driving Directions:

**From I-65, traveling south toward Montgomery**, take the Clay Street exit, #172, toward downtown. Take a left on Herron St. The street will become Bibb Street as you enter downtown. Take a left on Moulton Street and a right on Tallapoosa Street. Hotel is at 201 Tallapoosa Street.

**From I-65, traveling north toward Montgomery**, take exit #172 for Herron Street. Take a slight left at N. Holt Street, followed by a right at Bell Street. Continue to Tallapoosa Street. Hotel is at 201 Tallapoosa Street.

**From I-85, traveling toward Montgomery**, merge onto I-65 north toward Montgomery and take exit # 172 for Herron Street. Take a slight left at N. Holt Street, followed by a right at Bell Street. Continue to Tallapoosa Street. Hotel is at 201 Tallapoosa Street.

**Parking:** On-site parking - \$10/day, \$3/hour, \$17/day valet. City parking - \$3/day for 100 cars at nearby parking deck or lot. Directions to be sent with confirmation. Go to <http://montgomeryal.gov/index.aspx?page=133> and find map to this parking facility at 495 Moulton St.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

**Anyone attending the sessions pays full registration.**

**Regular registration** is \$80. Deadline: March 1, 2010 (postmark date). This includes entrance to all sessions on Friday and Saturday, continental breakfast on Friday and Saturday mornings, and lunch on Friday. The Thursday night dinner and the Friday banquet require a ticket and registration by March 1, 2010.

**Late registration** (after March 1, 2010) is \$125. No breakfast or lunch will be available with late registration, nor the Thursday night dinner or the Friday banquet.

**Guests** may buy a ticket for the Thursday dinner and/or the Friday banquet, if registered by March 1, 2010.

**Fill out the Registration Form**, Part A and Part B. Mark first and second choices for workshops, tours, and breakout sessions (see Part B).

There is an additional charge for each of the four **Pre-conference Workshops** on Thursday afternoon. These workshops will have a limited number, so register early.

There is no charge for the Thursday afternoon **Roundtable Discussions**, or the Thursday afternoon and Saturday afternoon **Tours**, but please register by March 1.

**Make your check payable to** Alabama Master Gardener Association and mail it along with your Registration Form, Part A and Part B, to 2010 AMGA Conference, PO Box 242722, Montgomery, AL 36124.

Questions? Email: [amga2010@gmail.com](mailto:amga2010@gmail.com)