

Fountains
of
Knowledge



2025

AMGA Conference

and

Business Meeting

April 3 - 5, 2025

Prattville, AL

Hosted by Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

Welcome to Prattville, the Fountain City!

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association welcomes you to Prattville, Alabama, for the 2025 Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference April 3-5 in the beautiful First Baptist Church. Located in Autauga County and nestled in the heart of Alabama, Prattville was established in 1833 when Daniel Pratt founded the town and built a cotton gin factory, which became the largest manufacturer of gins in the world. Today, gins are no longer manufactured in the historic buildings which anchor downtown Prattville, but they remain as a reminder of the city's rich and storied history. Although Prattville is considered part of the Montgomery Metropolitan Area, it is very much a business and residential community. A mild climate, adequate rainfall, and ideal soil types positively impact horticulture and agriculture.



Prattville is known as "The Fountain City" because of free-flowing artesian wells throughout the area, producing fresh, cool, potable water. Like this water, the 2025 AMGA Conference promises to refresh, renew, satisfy, fulfill, and energize by confirming and advancing knowledge in a variety of subjects. There will be opportunities to network with old friends, make new contacts, and discover helpful resources. Add to all of this, interesting tours, a silent auction with cool stuff, fun workshops and a garden party. Y'all come!!!

Featured Speakers



Joe Lamp'I is the Creator, Host and Executive Producer of the Emmy-award-winning national PBS series, *Growing a Greener World*[®]. He has traveled the country and beyond showing people beautiful gardens. He tells the stories of the people behind those gardens-heroes doing great things for the planet -through organic gardening, green living, small farming, and simple yet significant ways to lighten their footprint on this planet. His conference topic will be ***The Ecological Gardening Blueprint: 10 Essential Steps That Matter Most.***

Betsy Smith, Ph.D. holds a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and is a retired school principal. She presently serves as Vice-President of the Chilton County MGA and she is now the president of the Herb Society of America. Her motto, "Growing Learners, Growing Leaders" is to promote the use and delight of plants through education; her conference topic is ***Open the Gift of Herbs with Kids.***



Wesley M. Anderson, Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment at Auburn University. He is also a wildlife specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He earned his B.S. from Davidson College and M.S. from Texas Tech University. He earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. His conference topic is ***Bluebirds and Their Habitat.***

Grover Plunkett, M.A. is an assistant professor of history and political science at Faulkner University. He is presently earning a Ph.D. in International Relations and Economics at Auburn University and his research efforts include studies in the growth of capitalism in state-controlled markets, as well as the role of government in reversing the economic decline in American cities. His conference topic is ***Agribusiness, Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going.***



Laura Perry Johnson, Ph.D. is Associate Dean of University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. As part of a cattle and row crop family in Moultrie, Georgia, agriculture has always been a part of her life. During her time as head of Extension, both rural and urban programs have flourished, communication and funding have increased, and impact assessments have hit major strides. Laura will be sharing a Leadership presentation with the title to be announced.

Jason Reeves, M.S. grew up on a farm in West Tennessee. He earned an M.S. in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Tennessee. He is a landscape designer and consultant. Jason will be doing two presentations entitled ***Friends in the Shade and Keeping Your Hostas Company*** and ***The Making of a Garden.***



Tours & Workshops

Tours:

- ❖ **Autauga County MG – Demonstration Garden**
- ❖ **Autauga County MG – Prattvillage Garden**
- ❖ **Wilderness Park**
- ❖ **Lanark Wildlife Tour**
- ❖ **Petals from the Past**
- ❖ **Autauga Historical Society Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Prattville**

Workshops:

- ❖ **Painted Garden Apron**
- ❖ **Magnolia Blossoms**
- ❖ **Floral Design Techniques**
- ❖ **Resin Butterfly**
- ❖ **Whimsical Garden Art Flower**
- ❖ **And more**

Looking for an RV Park?

Gunter-Hill Montgomery
561 Booth Rd
Montgomery, AL 36108
334-269-1053

Ft. Toulouse Wetumpka
2521 W. Fort Toulouse Road
Wetumpka, Alabama 36093
334-567-3002

Pre-Conference Activities

Thursday

- ❖ **Tours**
- ❖ **Workshops**
- ❖ **Vendors**
- ❖ **Silent Auction**
- ❖ **Registration 12:00 pm**
- ❖ **Joe Lamp'l Opening Session 3:30 pm**

Garden Party Meet & Greet

Join Us!



Come and kick off your 2025 AMGA Conference experience with a festive Meet and Greet on Thursday, April 3rd from 5:30-6:30 p.m.! Mingle with conference attendees and enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres in Prattvillage Garden, which is located in downtown Prattville. The garden, with its primitive gothic-style 1840s chapel, is managed by Autauga County Master Gardeners Association. It is a teaching garden as well as the location of our association's annual spring plant sale; we invite you to celebrate the garden's 30th anniversary with us!