

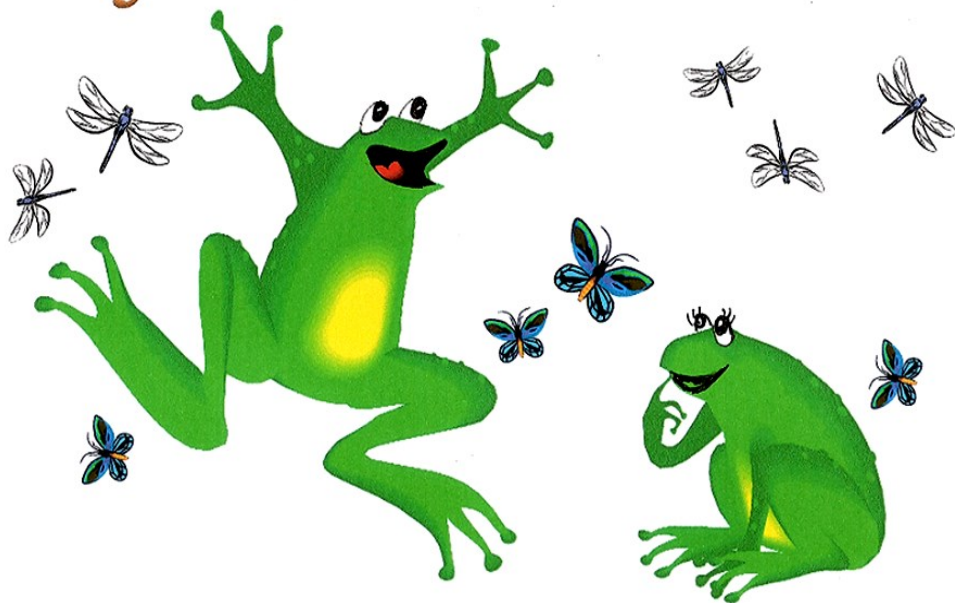


ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

25th

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Gardening... Wow!!



March 23rd—25th, 2015

Cullman Civic Center

510 5th St. SW, Cullman, AL

Hosted by Blount and Cullman County

Master Gardeners

WOW! The Alabama Master Gardeners Conference is *early* this year! But that gives us plenty of time to celebrate the **25th Conference** of our organization, not to mention time to implement all that we will learn from the **outstanding slate of speakers and workshops** we have lined up for this conference. We hope you will join us as we host “Gardening...WOW!” on March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2015 at the Cullman Civic Center in Cullman, Alabama.

The conference will begin with a terrarium workshop on Monday afternoon given by internationally renowned Tovah Martin, followed by a smoked chicken and fish fry dinner. Monday night. In addition, Blount and Cullman Counties have some amazing sights to see. Some are well known, like the **Ava Maria Grotto** in Cullman and the **Covered Bridges** of Blount County, and some are local treasures just waiting for you to discover, like the **Palisades Park** in Oneonta and the **CCMG Demonstration Garden** in downtown Cullman. We have several more features within a two-mile radius of the Civic Center that you can easily explore if you come early or stay later.

Conference registration is open to the public, so invite your gardening buddies and come discover new ways to put the **WOW!** in gardening.



AMGA 25th Annual Conference Agenda

Monday, March 23, 2015

- 8:00 AM **Cullman Civic Center** BACK DOOR OPENS (For Vendor set-up and Volunteers only)
Self-guided tours of area attractions. See information in this brochure, pg.
- 11:00 AM **Cullman Civic Center** Registration begins. Shop vendors/Silent Auction
See local attractions!
- 1:00 PM **AMGA Roundtable Discussions**
1) New Members Forum-Ways to find your areas of service in Master Gardeners
2) Publicity Options for Your Organization, Andria Cummings, presenter
- 1:00-2:30 PM **Tovah Martin's Terrarium Workshop (Limit 30)**
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- The gardening world's most rewarding make-and-take, everyone succeeds at a terrarium workshop. This 1½ to 2 hour hands-on workshop leads you through the making of a terrarium step-by-step. **Pre-registration required. Cost is \$30, all supplies included.**
- 2:30-5:00 PM Vendor visits, book signings, area tours. See information in this brochure, p. 6
- 6:00-8:30 PM **Reception/Smoked Chicken and Fish Fry Dinner**
Speaker: **Tovah Martin: "Infusing Your Garden with PERSONALITY!"**

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

- 7:00 AM **Registration**
- 8:00 AM Coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate, water available
- 8:30-9:00 AM Welcome, Opening remarks-Dr. Gary Lemme
- 9:00-10:00 AM **Melinda Myers: "Low Maintenance, Big Impact Perennial Gardens"**
- 10:00-10:30 AM Break: A snack of grapes, bananas, and cheese is available
- 10:30-12:00 AM AMGA Business Meeting
- 12:00-1:00 PM Box Lunches (pre-ordered), vendor visits, Silent Auction

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 (cont.)



- 1:00-2:00 PM **Breakout Session #1**
1. Hayes Jackson: “40 Unique Garden Plants That Will Make You the Talk of the Neighborhood”
 2. R. Scot Duncan: “Alabama’s Surprising Diversity: What We Have, Why We Have It, and Why It Matters”
 3. Carol Reese: “Special Effects in the Garden”
 4. Fred Spicer: “Pruning Techniques, Outcomes, & Design Influences”
- 2:00-2:30 PM Break: Vendors, Book signing, Silent Auction
- 2:30-3:30 PM **Breakout Session #2**
1. Hayes Jackson: “40 Unique Garden Plants That Will Make You the Talk of the Neighborhood”
 2. R. Scot Duncan: “Alabama’s Surprising Diversity: What We Have, Why We Have It, and Why It Matters”
 3. Carol Reese: “Special Effects in the Garden”
 4. Fred Spicer: “Pruning Techniques, Outcomes, & Design Influences”
- 4:00 PM Break: Vendors, book signing, Silent Auction. Cookies available as a snack.
- 5:00 PM Silent Auction Closes
- 6:00 PM **Banquet: Pat Stone, Speaker**
“The Greatest Garden Stories Ever Told”
Awards Presentation, Installation of new officers and board members
Silent Auction winners announced

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

- 8:00-8:30 AM Coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate, water available
- 8:30-9:00 AM Opening remarks, announcement of 2016 AMGA Conference, Fill out Evaluation Forms
- 9:00-10:00 AM **Linda Askey: “Taking WOW! Home”**
- 10:00-10:30 AM Break: vendors, book signing
- 10:30-11:30 AM **Carol Reese: “Just Do It!”**
- 11:30-11:45 AM Closing remarks, Door Prizes
- 11:45-12:45 PM AMGA Board Meeting

Meet the Speakers



Photo by Susan Johann

Tovah Martin-Workshop and Monday Night Dinner

An avid (verging on obsessed) gardener indoors and outside, Tovah Martin is the author of many gardening books – most recently *The Unexpected Houseplant* (2012, Timber Press) and *The New Terrarium* (2009, Clarkson Potter) as well as the popular *Tasha Tudor's Garden* (1994, Houghton Mifflin). A freelance writer, her articles have appeared in publications throughout the country including *Country Gardens*, *Garden Design*, *Traditional Home*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and numerous others. In addition to being the 2012 Writer in Residence for the new *Victoria* magazine, she is an accredited Organic Land Care Professional. Tovah can be found at www.tovahmartin.com and she blogs at www.plantswise.com.

Infusing the Garden with Personality You are what you eat and you dress for success; so, why not harness your garden as an expression of the inner You? This interactive lecture explores how a garden can reflect your personality using examples from creative gardens throughout the country.



Melinda Myers-Tuesday Keynote Speaker

Melinda Myers is an outstanding garden writer and speaker. She was awarded the 2013 American Horticultural Society's B. Y. Morrison Communications Award. Melinda has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*. She hosted *The Plant Doctor* radio show for over 20 years, as well as 7 seasons of *Great Lakes Gardener* on PBS. She was the host of *The Great Courses: How to Grow Anything* DVD series. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and has a "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column.

Low Maintenance, Big Impact Perennial Gardens Melinda will provide inspiring ideas for creating "WOW!!" gardens with gorgeous perennial plant combinations that make a big impact with minimal care. She'll share tips on selecting perennials for all sorts of situations, and maintenance tips for keeping perennial gardens looking beautiful year round.



Hayes Jackson-Tuesday Breakout Speaker #1

Hayes Jackson graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Landscape Design and Ornamental Horticulture and a masters in Environmental Biology at Jacksonville State University. Hayes is the Urban Regional Extension Agent with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Anniston where he works with urban horticulture and community-based programs. His gardens have been featured in many publications including *Southern Living* and *Alabama Gardens Great and Small*.

40 Unique Garden Plants That Will Make You the Talk of the Neighborhood Hayes has a 7-acre garden that contains just about one of everything. A fine example of a "botanical wonderland", the garden is mostly composed of paths, beds packed with plants, with a grass lawn that can be cut in 13 minutes! The garden contains large collections of a wide variety of plants...however, you won't see a Bradford pear or a hybrid tea rose on the place! He will explain how we can use these same plants to make our own gardening "WOW!!"



Dr. R. Scot Duncan-Tuesday Breakout Speaker #2

Dr. R. Scot Duncan is an Associate Professor of Biology and Urban Environmental Studies at Birmingham-Southern College. Originally from Pensacola, Florida, Scot received a BS in Biology from Eckerd College in 1993, an MS in Zoology from the University of Florida in 1997, and a PhD in Zoology from UF in 2001. His research on ecology and conservation biology has taken him to Costa Rica, Panama, Uganda, and Florida. Scot took a position at BSC in 2002 and teaches courses in conservation, ecology, and environmental studies. Scot is the author of *Southern Wonder: Alabama's Surprising Biodiversity*.

Alabama's Amazing Biodiversity: What We Have, Why We Have It, and Why It Matters Alabama has more documented species of plants and animals than 45 of the 50 states in this country. Our state has over 4,533 species, with more being discovered and identified every year. Scot will help us discover Alabama, as he takes us through the state's 64 distinct ecological systems. Scot will explain why Alabama is so biologically rich and why we should care about preserving what we have.



Carol Reese- Tuesday Breakout Speaker #3 and Wednesday Keynote Speaker #2

Carol Reese is the University of Tennessee’s Ornamental Horticulture Specialist for West Tennessee. She is a gardening columnist for the *Jackson Sun* and a contributor to several gardening magazines, including *Fine Gardening* and *Horticulture*. Carol is a truly inspiring speaker, who shows us how to create gardens that express our creativity and appeal to all our senses. In order to make her recommended list, a plant must be beautiful, easy to grow, locally available, and a real workhorse in the garden.

Special Effects in the Landscape (Tuesday) Some landscapes have that special something: a unique bit of structure, a wildly different way of using water, a surprising take on color. How about an innovative little vegetable garden that will also be a landscape feature? Steal these ideas and adapt them to create a bit of paradise.

Just Do It! (Wednesday) Intimidated by lofty landscape principles? Let Carol debunk some of the myths that may have made you hesitate. Develop a fun, productive philosophy that guides your choices and forgives “mistakes.” Funny, wise and motivational, this talk will have you looking at your landscape with fresh eyes!



Fred Spicer-Tuesday Breakout Speaker #4

Fred Spicer is executive director and CEO of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Alabama’s largest living museum, containing over 30 distinct gardens in naturalistic and interpretive styles, and more than 20 works of original sculpture and garden art. He has over 30 years in practice as a public garden administrator, landscape architect and nurseryman. Mr. Spicer is an experienced lecturer and has spoken throughout the northeast, mid-west and southeast. He gardens in Vestavia Hills, AL.

Pruning: Techniques, Outcomes & Design Influences Pruning and training of plants is an essential part of garden development and maintenance, yet even savvy gardeners approach these basic tasks with a mixture of ignorance and trepidation. Using before and after images of selected plants, Spicer tracks the establishment of his home garden, illustrating basic pruning tools, methods, techniques, and the plant’s responses. You’ll learn not only the how-to, but the why as he shows how each approach works to enhance the overall garden design.



Pat Stone-Tuesday Night Banquet Speaker

Pat Stone is the Creator/Publisher/Editor of *GreenPrints: The Weeder’s Digest*, which is the only magazine devoted to sharing the human side of gardening in fine prose and art. It has repeatedly won the Garden Writers Association award for Best Small Garden Magazine in America. Pat also co-authored *Chicken Soup for the Gardener’s Soul*; he was a Public Radio commentator, and Garden Editor for *Mother Earth News*. Pat’s programs are inspirational, hilarious, and a great break from the usual PowerPoint fare. He lives between a mountain and a creek in Fairview, North Carolina.

The Greatest Garden Stories Ever Told Pat gives an enrapturing performance of the most inspiring and heartwarming true garden stories ever told. He’ll tell us about the Vietnam veteran who couldn’t talk to people until he learned to talk to plants; the little boy who tried to grow doughnuts; the master gardener who got a little carried away – and much, much more. Pat Stone, the Garrison Keillor of gardening, will have you rolling with laughter, touched by tears, and stirred by the most unique garden talk of all!



Linda Askey-Wednesday Keynote Speaker #1

Although she is a horticulturist by training, Linda Askey finds that writing about gardening, visiting accomplished gardeners, and experiencing her own garden continues to be the best school of all. She wrote for *Southern Living* magazine for 21 years and since 2000 has been a freelance contributor to magazines, a frequent speaker at symposia, and a consultant to horticultural businesses. She resides in Birmingham, Alabama, with the three great loves of her life: her husband, gardens, and dogs.

Taking WOW! Home Simply put, “Wow!” is what we say when we trip over excellence in the garden. Whether it is a delight to the eye, unexpected humor, or a tug on the heartstrings, garden surprises transform a garden walk from a meditation into an experience and a memory. Carefully composed plantings, over-achieving plants, and creative garden ornaments can each provide a “Wow!” moment. Linda will share some of her favorite “Wows!” from over three decades of travel as a garden journalist with the hope of sending us home to create a little “Wow!” in our own gardens.



AMGA 25TH Annual Conference Maps

Cullman County Civic Center and Suggested Hotels & Campgrounds

Cullman County Civic Center

510 5th St SW
Cullman, AL 35055 (256) 734-9157

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE HOTELS, THIS IS THE INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER BY PHONE FOR ANY OF THE THREE HOST HOTELS. CALL HAMPSON INN, HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, AND COMFORT SUITES, AND ASK FOR THE ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER RATE FOR MARCH 22-25 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Hampton Inn Cullman

6100 Alabama 157, Cullman, AL
(256) 739-4444; \$109 Dbl Queen/King

Holiday Inn Express Cullman

2052 Hayes Dr. NW, Cullman, AL
(256) 736-1906; \$99 Dbl Queen/\$109 Suites

Comfort Suites Cullman

2048 St. Joseph Drive NW, Cullman, AL
(256) 255-5999; \$89 Dbl Queen/King

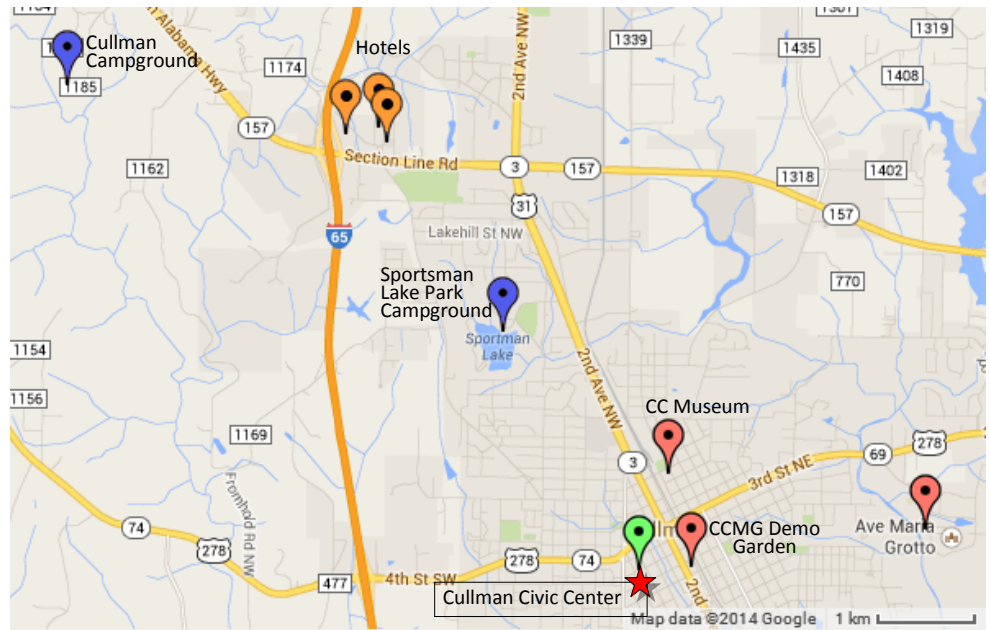
YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE ABOVE RATES IF YOU CALL THE 800 NUMBERS FOR THE ABOVE HOTELS!

Cullman Campground

220 County Road 1185, Cullman, AL
(256) 734-9794 \$23.10 daily/\$99 weekly 30 amp;
\$25.30 daily/\$110 weekly 50 amp. AAA available

Sportsman Lake Park

1544 Sportsman Lake Park Rd. NW
256-734-3052 \$24.70 Camper/\$15.72 tent (11)



WOW! attractions to see in Blount County

1. Swann Bridge
2. Easley Bridge
3. Horton's Mill Bridge
4. Palisades Park

Please consult www.county.blount.al.us for a printable map to these bridges and park.

Suggested self-guided tours available in the area for early arrivers or after conference side trips:

Ava Maria Grotto, 1600 St. Bernard Drive NE, 256-734-4110. **2.6 miles** from Civic Center, E on Hwy 278. Open: 9 AM-5 PM Daily, Admission: \$7 Adults, \$5 Seniors, \$4.50 Children 6-12

CCMG Demonstration Garden, on 1st Ave. SE between 6th and 7th St. SE. **0.6 miles** from Civic Center, E on 5th ST SW, then R on 1st Ave SE.

Cullman County Museum, 211 2nd Ave NE, Cullman, AL, (800) 533-1258. **0.9 miles** from Civic Center, E on Hwy 278, then L on 2nd Ave. Open: 8 AM -4 PM M-F, Sun. 1:30-4:40 PM. Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors, \$3 Students & children.

Don and Pat Nelson's Daylily and Iris Farm, 319 Hyw. 55 E, Falkville, AL, 256-784-5234. **16.8 miles** from Civic Center, N on I-65, Exit 322.

Covered Bridges of Blount County Trail: Swann, Easley, and Horton Mill Bridges. From the Civic Center, Swann Bridge, **26.5 miles** (36 min.); on to Easley Bridge, **8.8 miles** (16 min.); ending at Horton Mill Bridge, **19.7 miles** (32 min.) Allow 3.75 hours driving for tour, with 15 min. per bridge.

Palisades Park, Oneonta, AL, 1225 Palisades Pkwy, Oneonta, AL, (205) 274-0017. **33.5 miles** (51 min.) from Civic Center. Open 9 AM-9 PM.

AMGA 25TH Annual Conference REGISTRATION FORM



Form available online @www.amgaconference.org

Last Name _____	First Name _____	MI _____
Street _____	City _____	ST _____ Zip _____
MG County _____	E-mail _____	Phone _____
Please Circle One: Master Gardener MG Intern ACES Sponsor Vendor Guest		

Is the Badge Name the same as the Registration Name? Yes _____ No _____
 If NO, please submit the name for your Badge : _____

REGISTRATION	COST	ENCLOSED
Regular Registration, postmarked by March 1, 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	\$ _____
Late Registration , postmarked after March 1, 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145	\$ _____

MONDAY: SMOKED CHICKEN AND FISH FRY DINNER AT THE CIVIC CENTER.

PRICE INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION CATERING BY WHISKERS I WILL ATTEND (*Registration must be postmarked by 3/9/2015*)
 I WILL NOT ATTEND

TUESDAY: BOXED LUNCH: No charge before March 9, 2015. Not available after March 9, 2015

Check preference: 1] Chicken Salad Croissant with potato salad
 2] Ham and Swiss Croissant with sundried tomato pasta

TUESDAY: BANQUET AT THE CIVIC CENTER

PRICE INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION Catering by Designs by Grace. I WILL ATTEND (*Registration must be postmarked by 3/9/2015*)
 Please choose one: I WILL NOT ATTEND
 (1) Pork tenderloin medallions with mandarin glaze, grilled chicken kabob, rosemary creamed potatoes, colored peppers stuffed with fresh corn with herbs, homemade yeast roll, and assorted desserts
 (2) Vegetables only

T-SHIRTS: NOT AVAILABLE AT THE CONFERENCE; PRE-ORDER BY MARCH 9, 2015! \$15 EACH

select your size: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ XXL _____ \$ _____

GUEST MEALS (AVAILABLE UNTIL MARCH 9, 2015)

Guest Name(s) _____ \$15 Monday Dinner \$ _____
 Check banquet preference: (1) Regular (2) Vegetables \$35 Tuesday Banquet \$ _____

TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

\$30 Each \$ _____

AMOUNT DUE *See back of form for refund policy **TOTAL** \$

AMGA 25th Annual Conference
REGISTRATION FORM (cont.)



MONDAY, March 23, 2015

11:00 AM Cullman County Civic Center opens for Registration
510 5th St SW, Cullman, AL 35055, (256) 734-9157

1:00-2:30 PM **Tovah Martin's Terrarium Workshop (Limit 30)**

1:00-2:00 PM Breakout Sessions #1: number in order of preference

Hayes Jackson: "40 Unique Garden Plants That Will Make You the Talk of the Neighborhood"

R. Scot Duncan: "Alabama's Surprising Diversity: What We Have, Why We Have It, and Why It Matters"

Carol Reese: "Special Effects in the Garden"

Fred Spicer: "Pruning Techniques, Outcomes, & Design Influences"

2:00-3:30 PM Breakout Sessions #2: number in order of preference

Hayes Jackson: "40 Unique Garden Plants That Will Make You the Talk of the Neighborhood"

R. Scot Duncan: "Alabama's Surprising Diversity: What We Have, Why We Have It, and Why It Matters"

Carol Reese: "Special Effects in the Garden"

Fred Spicer: "Pruning Techniques, Outcomes, & Design Influences"

Make check payable to AMGA and mail to:

Imogene Hamilton, 691 Oakhalla Road, Hayden, AL 35079

Phone: (205) 647-1323, Email: imoh1@gmail.com

Form available online @www.amgaconference.org

REFUND POLICY: NO REFUNDS AFTER 3/1/2015

FOR CONFERENCE STAFF ONLY

Date Received _____ Payment received _____ Confirmation Sent _____ Initials _____