



MEDIA CONTACT

Laura McPhail
Director of Marketing and Communications
Huntsville Botanical Garden
lmcp@mail@hsvbg.org
256-830-4447, ext. 226

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Huntsville Botanical Garden extends operational hours, hosts new event series this summer

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (April 17, 2024) – Recognized by locals and tourists as one of the best attractions in the Southeast, Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG) is extending its operational hours from April through September.

“We want as many people as possible to have the opportunity to enjoy the Garden and that starts with staying open later as the days get longer,” said HBG CEO Susan Wagner. “With new event series on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, and longer hours on Saturdays and Sundays, we are excited to be able to further our mission of connecting more people to plants to improve quality of life in our region.”

HBG is adding hours to entice people to come and see why it was voted the #6 Best Botanical Garden in the nation by *USA Today*. The new hours are Monday and Tuesday, 9-6; Wednesday-Saturday: 9-dusk (7:30 p.m. in April, 8 p.m. in May-Aug, and 7:30 p.m. in September); Sunday 11-6. In October, closing time reverts to 6 p.m. on all days.

“People come to the Garden for a variety of personal reasons, and we want to give them the time to do just that,” said HBG Director of Marketing and Communications Laura McPhail. “The later closing times will allow people to come and decompress after work, enjoy the Garden during the cooler part of the day during summer, or make the Garden their date night destination.”

McPhail said in addition to longer hours, HBG is adding new evening events for the public to attend.

On Wednesdays from May 1 through June 29 from 5-7 p.m., HBG will be home to Star 99.1 FM’s Working Women’s Wednesdays. Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, this event series offers music, cocktails, wine, and food specials while set against the backdrop of the Garden’s vibrant atmosphere.

All adults are welcome to attend Working Women’s Wednesdays where every event has a different theme and amazing prizes are given away by Star 99.1’s “Auntie of the Afternoon,” Leeann. May 1 kicks off with a casino night. Working Women’s Wednesdays is free to attend, but non-members wishing to tour the Garden must pay admission. Visit <https://hsvbg.org/event/working-womens-wenesday/2024-05-01/> for additional details.

Starting April 18 and continuing through September 26, Thursday nights transport Garden visitors around the world with Global Rhythm & Blooms. Global Rhythm & Blooms is an enriching event series dedicated to celebrating the vibrant tapestry of cultures from Huntsville's international communities through music, dance, food and drink. The event series will take place in the shade of the Cedar Glade every Thursday from 5 p.m. until dusk.

"Music, food, and flowers transcend language barriers and are deeply rooted aspects of cultures around the world," said HBG CEO Susan Wagner. "Huntsville Botanical Garden is a place that invites and welcomes people of all walks of life to enjoy the beauty of nature, and the Global Rhythm & Blooms event series gives guests another reason to connect not only with our surroundings but also with each other."

Global Rhythm & Blooms will rotate to a different culture or group of cultures every two weeks, allowing visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in cultural traditions expressed through entertainment, food, and beverages representative of that week's designated culture. HBG is working with Huntsville and North Alabama cultural organizations and the City of Huntsville's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to ensure cultural sensitivity.

Global Rhythm & Blooms is free for HBG members to attend; non-members pay \$10 after 5:00 p.m. For schedule and details, visit hsvbg.org/grb.

Golden Hour, sponsored by the City of Huntsville Music Office, returns new and improved on Friday evenings this year.

"We are keeping it local and putting the "happy" back into happy hour on Fridays, April 19 through September 27, from 5 p.m. until dusk," said McPhail. "Guests are invited to start the weekend with a cold drink, some yummy food from the Garden Café, and live music from local musicians, all from the shade of the Cedar Glade."

During Golden Hour, the Garden Cafe will be open for food and beverages and a cash bar will be available. HBG Members can attend Golden Hour for free, while non-members pay \$10 after 5:00 p.m. For details and entertainment schedule, visit hsvbg.org/golden-hour.

"The best way to take advantage of all of these events and everything else the Garden has to offer is to become a member," said McPhail. "Not only do you get free access to enriching events like these, you get free admission year-round. With something new every season, membership pays for itself."

The full calendar of events and educational programs as well as membership information can be found at hsvbg.org.

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About Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to connect people to plants in order to support a healthier quality of life for the region. Open year-round, the Garden contains diverse ecosystems to explore within its 118 acres. From grassy meadows to woodland paths, aquatic habitats to stunning floral collections, the Garden invites guests of all ages to discover the beauty and wonder of the natural environment. For more information, visit hsvbg.org.