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**Huntsville Botanical Garden unveils custom lanterns  
of Alabama native plants at 'Night Blooms'**

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (Sept. 1, 2021) – The [Huntsville Botanical Garden](#) has introduced a new feature to its summer event “[Night Blooms](#),” presented by PNC Bank: custom-made lanterns representing native plants of Alabama.

“With Night Blooms, we set out to bring the story of the Garden to life in a new way, and what better way to do that than by representing some of the plants that make our Garden and our region so special?” said Sue Wagner, chief executive officer of the Garden. “These custom-made lanterns offer another facet that makes the Night Blooms experience truly unique to Huntsville and to the Garden.”

Arranged in four vignette displays, the new lanterns were designed and handmade by trained artisans specifically for Night Blooms, with each vignette representing a native plant of significance to the Garden:

- Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*): An iconic tree of the South, the flower of the southern magnolia was selected for its beautiful structure and cultural significance in the region.
- Trillium (*Trillium sp.*): The trillium was selected in honor of the Garden’s nationally accredited trillium collection, which contains 39 of the 43 trillium species that exist worldwide.
- Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia sp.*): This carnivorous native plant is recognizable by its unique structure and coloration, and it can be found growing in boggy areas throughout the Garden.

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- Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*): The dogwood flowers pay tribute to the historic tree that once grew in the Garden, living to be over 110 years old before it was given new life through grafts that grow in the Garden today.

“The artistry of the lanterns is able to capture the beauty and the detail of these plants in an incredible way,” said Rebecca Turk, director of learning and public engagement at the Garden. “Delays in the supply chain postponed their unveiling, but we are thrilled to be sharing them with guests now. We know they will be a hit.”

The new lanterns are on display now at Night Blooms, happening at the Garden on Wednesday through Sunday evenings until Sept. 26. Featuring thousands of lights and botanical lanterns, Night Blooms takes guests on a one-mile walking journey to experience the Garden’s natural surroundings like never before. Tickets and additional information about the event can be found at [hsvbg.org/NightBlooms](https://hsvbg.org/NightBlooms).

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### **About the Huntsville Botanical Garden**

The 112-acre Huntsville Botanical Garden is open year-round and contains a diverse ecosystem of meadows, upland and bottomland forest, and wetlands, as well as a variety of specialty gardens and native plant collections. The Mathews Nature Trail contains the largest accredited trillium collection in the U.S., and the Anderson Education Center is home to the nation’s largest open-air butterfly house. The Native Plants Teaching Garden is a public space that highlights the way local plants, soil, pollinators, and birds create distinct communities and how they interact to form a diverse, sustainable, and attractive landscape. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Garden is a member of the American Public Gardens Association, the North American Plant Collections Consortium, the American Horticultural Society, and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, as well as an ArbNet-accredited arboretum. For more information, visit [hsvbg.org](https://hsvbg.org).