



*CAWACO  
Resource, Conservation  
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**ALDRIDGE GARDENS CONTINUES EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH  
ASSISTANCE FROM GRANT**

(Hoover, Ala.) - Aldridge Gardens recently announced a \$5,000 grant from the Cawaco Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council and provided details on the hands-on educational programs available to elementary school children.

Aldridge Gardens began offering field trip and day camp programs to give children the opportunity to learn about nature and appreciate science in an outdoor classroom setting. All programs comply with the Alabama State Course of Study, so that students can learn the concepts they are studying in the classroom in an interactive way.

State Senator Jabo Waggoner was in attendance and expressed his gratitude for this program and the positive effect it is having on children.

"Projects like the Children's Education Program provide so many benefits for students. It gives them the opportunity to get outside and learn about nature. Many elementary students never have this opportunity, and I am proud to have played a small role in this project," Waggoner said.

Students from elementary schools throughout the Birmingham area visit Aldridge Gardens for field trips, and children can attend day camps during the summer.

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Tynette Lynch, CEO of Aldridge Gardens, said the Children's Education Program is making an impact in the community.

"We're very grateful for the involvement from Cawaco RC&D and their generous contribution to Aldridge Gardens. It means so much to the school children who benefit from this sponsorship," Lynch said.

Students from Greystone Elementary School were present at the event. The goal of the Children's Education Program is to cultivate children's natural curiosity, empower them with understanding and engage them in problem solving and decision making to preserve the delicate balance of nature. Volunteers guide children through the garden and help them apply classroom concepts to their outdoor activities.

State Rep. Jim Carns attended the event and applauded the work of the gardens' administration and volunteers.

"We are fortunate to have the Children's Education Program available to elementary students. I am thankful for the volunteers at Aldridge Gardens who willingly serve to make this program possible. I'm proud to be able to partner with Aldridge Gardens and Cawaco RC&D," Carns said.

Aldridge Gardens opened in 2002 after Eddie Aldridge, a well-known horticulturalist, donated the land to the city of Hoover. The young garden showcases hydrangeas, including the Snowflake Hydrangea, which was patented by Mr. Aldridge and is now the official flower of the City of Hoover. Other features include an event venue and gallery in the couple's former home, an outdoor pavilion, a six-acre lake and a half-mile walking trail. The Gardens also host plant sales, art exhibits and shows, classes and seminars, bird walks, fishing days and concerts.

The RC&D program was established in the Agriculture Act of 1962 to provide a program that empowers rural people to help themselves. RC&D areas include adjacent counties that have substantial natural resources to use for economic improvement and community betterment.

RC&D Councils are made up of citizens in an RC&D area who want a better life for themselves, their children, and future generations. RC&D Council representatives and alternates are volunteers who assist RC&D. There are nine RC&D councils throughout the state.

RC&D Councils in Alabama are non-profit, tax-exempt organizations within the state that are designated 501(c)(3) entities by the Internal Revenue Service.

For more information please visit us at [www.cawaco.org](http://www.cawaco.org) or <http://www.facebook.com/Cawaco.RCD>

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