

# ALDRIDGE GARDENS

NATURE AND ART IN BALANCE



## News from our Chief Executive Officer Tynette Lynch

As I walk through beautiful Aldridge Gardens these last few days of May I can hardly wrap my thoughts around all that has happened in this world in such a short time.

The flowers are all blooming, butterflies are everywhere, ducks with their cute ducklings are in abundance and we are still in the middle of a pandemic. During all of these changes that have taken place nothing has stopped the beauty of nature from happening.



The State Health Officer encouraged everyone to get outside and exercise, and practice social distancing while doing so, and our spacious trails at Aldridge Gardens became just the spot to do that in.

I have had the privilege of sharing personal photos that our visitors have posted on Facebook with beautiful notes and compliments, most from first time visitors and it has all been so uplifting for me and our Aldridge Gardens team.

Our little donation box has been crammed full of donations made daily by our visitors, showing such kindness and support during this difficult time.

Our annual fundraiser “Hydrangeas Under the Stars” that was originally planned for June 6th has been rescheduled to September 17th. Tickets and tables are still available to purchase.

Our annual “Taste of Hoover” is planned for Thursday, October 8th and we will have more information on that event available on our website very soon.

Thank you to all of our supporters and members and please check our website for updates and event information.



## Quick Facts

We get a LOT of questions about Aldridge Gardens throughout the year, but the two that are asked most are: when are the hydrangeas in bloom, and what is there to see after the hydrangeas stop blooming?

The first question depends on multiple factors that determine when the blooms open, but normally, we say the “season” begins around Mother’s Day and ends in October. October??? Yes, the *Hydrangea paniculata* is a summer to fall bloomer. But let’s focus on the ones most people yearn for after the winter is over: the French and Oakleaf hydrangeas.

The French Hydrangeas are the ones that come in those glorious shades of pink, blue and lavender. Their bloom season is highly influenced by weather, but on a year with seasonable temperatures, the blooming season starts around the early-middle of May and continues on until the end of June. The PEAK time would be around the first of June, and they are done by July with a few exceptions for those varieties that bloom twice a year. Again, weather dependent.

The Oakleaf hydrangeas, including the Snowflake, will

begin blooming about the same time as the French hydrangeas. They reach a really glorious peak about the second week in June and then fade to a beautiful wine color over the course of the summer. Oakleaf Hydrangeas are really a constantly changing, all-summer bloomer!

The second question about what there is to see after the hydrangeas stop blooming is a good one. Here in the South, we are so focused on the spring bloomers that we often overlook the interesting happening of the summer garden. After Memorial Day, most of the showstoppers have done their thing, but as you stroll around the Gardens, unique mid-late summer bloomers will be greeting you. Daylily, bottlebrush buckeye, plum-leaf azalea, Blue Moon wisteria all make a spectacular summer show. And some plants will be setting fruit that is very showy like the Deerberry and Sparkleberry shrubs by the Frog Pond! And don’t forget the Oakleaf hydrangeas and the *Hydrangea paniculata* mentioned above!

So don’t think of Aldridge Gardens as a spring-only garden—there are plenty of incredible plants to see from Memorial Day to fall!

