## ALDRIDGE G A R D E N S

## NATURE AND ART IN BALANCE









## Did You Know?

It is springtime in Hoover, Alabama, and my favorite time to be at Aldridge Gardens. As the sun comes up over the lake and our first visitors are ready to take their quiet strolls or energy walks around the paths, the beauty of nature is everywhere.

There are so many "did you knows" about Aldridge Gardens, and I wanted to share a few of those with you.

Did you know...

We don't think there is a more beautiful spot in Alabama to take photographs, and our calendar is filling up quickly with requests for sessions. Be sure to call and schedule a date in advance to take advantage of our beautiful outdoor vistas.

Summer camps are so much fun at Aldridge Gardens and are held during the month of June only. These camps are half day camps, taught by certified Alabama teachers who incorporate nature, learning and fun together in a fun filled day. Camps fill up quickly, so register online early.

Membership has its benefits and fishing in our lake is one of those benefits. Certain days are open to fishing in our lake for members only, and I have seen some beauties pulled out.

Members-only guided bird walks are offered on the third Saturday of each month from March through November. These are conducted under the guidance of Dr. Richard Ryel and his wife Patricia and are free to our members.

Who knew we have Bonsai at Aldridge Gardens and a Bonsai membership as well? We have Bonsai classes throughout the year and you can view our beautiful Bonsai display anytime we are open.

There are so many reasons to become a member at Aldridge Gardens, but most importantly is that you help support our beautiful gardens.

I hope you are planning a visit soon to enjoy what nature has to offer here in the middle of the City of Hoover.

## Springtime Happenings

Finally, winter has started to ease, and we are blessed with warmer weather. And, as that warm weather starts to settle in, Aldridge Gardens comes alive! Native azaleas start to explode with their riot of color. The spring bulbs and wildflowers awaken from their winter sleep. The camellias slowly start to fade, but are still hanging on with incredible blooms. And the hydrangeas...oh how we count the days until the Gardens are full of the wonderful blooms of the French hydrangeas AND our world-renowned Snowflake. And given that we have had a more seasonable winter, we anticipate Mother Nature will not let us down this year!

Another wonderful thing about the warmer weather is that the fishing in the Aldridge Gardens' lake REALLY moves into high gear. Only MEMBERS get the terrific benefit of fishing in our lake, so join soon or miss out on the fun. And if you can't catch a fish in our lake, we can recommend a good bowling instructor!

Last year, our Annual Plant Sale was canceled because of the pandemic. This year's sale is scheduled for April 29, 30 and May 1. April 29 and 30 hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Saturday we will be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon. As always, the early birds get the best deals, so plan to come early! We will have native azaleas, hydrangeas, pass-alongs and some old favorites. And remember, 100 percent of the profit helps Aldridge Gardens continue to improve our grounds, and MEMBERS get a 10 percent discount on their purchases.

Summer camps will be here before you know it. The BEST way to get the information AND to register your little ones is to visit aldridgegardens.com. We have all the details, and registration cannot be easier.

We hope to see you in the gardens throughout the year, but especially this spring. Your patronage helped us shatter our annual attendance record in 2020, and we are looking at breaking THAT new record in 2021!





