

# ALDRIDGE GARDENS

NATURE AND ART IN BALANCE

## Learning about the Gardens

One of the missions of Aldridge Gardens is education, both for children and for adults. The Gardens offers a tremendously-wide variety of opportunities for children, including summer camps and school field trips, but are you aware of the wide variety of adult education offerings?

If you are a member of the Gardens (check our website for membership details), you qualify for our member pop-ups! Pop-ups are short (usually an hour, but can last 90 minutes with Q&A) sessions, usually pertaining to day-to-day landscape, gardening and horticulture issues. We try and focus on “real world” problems—things you would experience at your home landscape. The pop-ups generate some heavy discussion, often off-topic, but that is honestly the intent. There is always something we can learn from each other!

In addition to pop-ups, the Gardens offers general education classes that range from snowflake cutting with Gary Chapman at Christmas, decorating with Beth White (seasonal classes), spirits



tasting and recipes, pruning classes (better known as how to avoid crape murder) and various other classes of general and horticultural interest. Almost all Adult Education classes are in the

evening, with prices being affordable (pop-up classes are always free as a membership benefit).

Keep an eye on the calendar at [aldridgegardens.com](http://aldridgegardens.com) for the latest!

## Summer Camps

Are you inundated with summer camp offerings for your kids? Having trouble selecting a camp that is not just a “babysitter” for a few hours? If so, look no further! For a truly unique kids’ summer camp experience Aldridge Gardens Summer Camps 2023 is the ticket.

Our week-long-sessions summer camps, starting June 5 and running through June 30, are designed for fun but geared toward education. Educators certified by the State of Alabama teach every session, which has its basis in a S.T.E.A.M. branch—kids have

fun and learn without realizing it—subliminally!

Weekly sessions are daily, 9 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday. Children may attend multiple weekly sessions, but only one session per week.

Registration begins February 15 for members of the Gardens, March 1 for non-members. Aldridge Gardens’ member parents receive a 10-percent discount on tuition! Snacks are provided. Easy drop-off/pick-up. Watch [aldridgegardens.com](http://aldridgegardens.com) for updated news and camp schedules.





## The Bonsai Terrace

Did you know that Aldridge Gardens has one of the finest bonsai collections in the Southeast?

Our bonsai have been absent this past year, while their new “home” was being constructed off the end of the driveway outside the Roots Gift Shop. Many of you have missed one of the Gardens’ most loved attractions.

We are excited to announce that the bonsai are back in their outstanding new home, the Meyer Bonsai Terrace!

Over a year went into the planning, design and construction of the Terrace, and the wait was worth it. John Walker, of Walking Tree Bonsai, our curator, created both an outstanding addition to the Gardens and a wonderful new venue to display bonsai in more appropriate surroundings.

Entrance to the Terrace is through our own version of a Torii gate. Once inside, a meandering brick path winds down to the Terrace overlook, all the while surrounded by bonsai displayed on both platforms and on beautiful, stones selected to display these living pieces of art. Alongside the path are plantings complementary to the bonsai theme and a “zen” fountain. The Terrace itself



affords beautiful new views of the Gardens. Some of the original platforms have been relocated to the Terrace, but there are bonsai at the patio level of the house, too.

The Meyer Bonsai Terrace can be found behind the Aldridge House just beyond the Roots Gift Shop and is open during normal Gardens’ hours. Bonsai are changed periodically, so the experience will change several times during the year.

Come visit this truly magical addition to Aldridge Gardens!



## From Our CEO

I can’t believe that I am saying “hello springtime” from Aldridge Gardens already, but we are always excited to move into our spring mode as we watch the winter season begin to end.

We use early spring as a clean-up time as we anticipate new blooms throughout the various areas of Aldridge Gardens.

Our native plants are not quite ready to blossom, but we can see them starting to bud early.

Thoughts of warmer weather is getting near as we put final plans on our upcoming events.



**Tynette Lynch**

Our annual plant sale will be April 27, 28 and a half day on April 29. Our plant sale organizers, who are all volunteers, have been ordering plants and planning this sale since last year’s sale ended. We could not do it without our wonderful volunteers. This sale helps support Aldridge Gardens, and we hope that everyone will put those dates on your calendar to stop by those days.

Summer Camps are planned to span June 5-30. Visit [aldrigegardens.com](http://aldrigegardens.com) for the dates that registration opens to the public. Space is limited, and our camps fill up quickly.

Everyone is excited about our new Bonsai area. The Meyer Bonsai Terrace is complete, and we are extremely proud to be able to have this at Aldridge Gardens. If one wants to learn more about Bonsai, Aldridge Gardens offers informative classes and even a Bonsai membership online.

Thank you for visiting Aldridge Gardens! We hope you will come back soon.