

---

# SUNNYSIDE THYMES

---

Volume 31, Issue 6

“Helping Others Grow”

June 2022

---

## Botanical Gardens to Love

*By Nita Jenkins, SMG Member*

Here we are finally able to travel again, and so I would like to recommend two outstanding gardens to visit in Alabama. One close enough for a short or weekend getaway in Huntsville, or if you are headed farther south to the Gulf Shore beaches, Bellingrath, near Mobile.

### **HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Three hundred miles to the south, and close to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, is the 112 acre Huntsville Botanical Gardens. I was introduced to this amazing garden, when my son moved to Huntsville to work at the Marshall Space Center. This garden has something for everyone, and you can easily spend a full day taking in the beauty. There is a large visitor center, with food, and a great gift shop. The Purdy Butterfly House is the nation's largest open air butterfly house, and next door is their children's garden. The North Alabama Master Gardeners maintain a Demonstration Garden on the property. There is a Herb Garden set-up with different themes, such as tea, culinary, dye, medical, and fragrance. Other gardens include a Daylily garden, Aquatic Garden, Four Season garden, Fern Glade, and you can follow a nature trail full of native plants, and admire the Azalea, and Hydrangea in season. If you go to their website ([www.hsvbq.org](http://www.hsvbq.org)) a virtual tour is offered of the gardens, get hours, admission, and other event information.

### **BELLINGRATH GARDEN AND MUSEUM HOME**

Located (30) minutes to the south west of Mobile, off highway 90, is Bellingrath, home to Walter and Bessie Bellingrath. Walter made his fortune from Coca Cola. The home and gardens were open to the public in 1934. The property started out as a fish camp and lodge on the Fowl River, which empties into Mobile Bay.

The property is 65 acres of year round beauty. The Rose Garden has taken top national honors, and you can relax at Mirror Lake, or learn about the wildlife and ecology of the Fowl River on the boardwalk. There is a great lawn for events, a Gazebo Garden, and a Asian-American Garden. The visitor center offers a gift shop, and dining, Don't miss the Delchamps Gallery of Boehm Porcelain collection, or the museum home. Check the website for additional information at ([www.bellingrath.org](http://www.bellingrath.org)). This garden is best visited in the spring, early summer, and fall, due to the heat and humidity of the area. A lot of the Bellingrath's plants are tropical, and not suited to our zone. They are still beautiful to look at.

*All photos: Nita Jenkins*

