

RUBY M. MIZE AZALEA GARDEN

Strolling through the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden in Nacogdoches is like walking through a kaleidoscope. Your senses are bombarded by brilliant hues of purple, orange, yellow, red, pink, and white blooms.

As the largest azalea garden in Texas, the Ruby M.

Mize Azalea Garden boasts one of the most diverse azalea
collections in the United States. It's the centerpiece of
the annual Nacogdoches Azalea Trail, March 18 to April 1,
2006.

The garden encompasses eight forested acres along historic Lanana Creek on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University. Its impressionistic style features large masses of brilliant color accented with vibrant Japanese maples, camellias, and ornamental trees.

Walking paths weave through the garden, drawing attention to more than 6,500 evergreen and native azaleas. The heart of the garden is the Council Ring, surrounded by deep watermelon pink blooms of the 'Judge Solomon' and white accents of 'Mrs. B. B. Gerbing.' Benches define the outer circle, providing a beautiful and serene respite area.

Unique native varieties of azaleas found in the garden include the yellow 'Aromi Sunrise,' orange flowering 'Tipsy Tangerine,' 'Purple Spider', and 'Admiral Semmes' Confederate yellow.

The garden is located on University Drive just south of the William R. Johnson Coliseum (see map on reverse).

SELF-GUIDED DRIVING TOURS

In addition to being home to the state's biggest and best azalea garden, Nacogdoches boasts three self-guided driving trails through beautifully manicured residential gardens.

From expansive, stream-side gardens to manicured private districts, Nacogdoches literally springs to life and color with the onset of azalea season. It's a natural event among historic treasures that you will yearn to return to time and time again.

Each trail starts at the Visitor's Center, located on the downtown square at 200 E. Main St. Color-coded signs provide directional assistance along the trails.

GROUP TOURS

Azalea season is the perfect time to bring your group to the Oldest Town in Texas. And while the colorful azaleas are the main attraction during the spring, there are plenty of other interesting sites to keep visitors busy.

Our "Group Tour & Meeting Planner" guide includes two sample itineraries for your visit to Nacogdoches. We will also be glad to help you plan an itinerary tailored to your group's specific interest.

Call us at **888-OLDEST-TOWN** to request your free Group Tour Planner's Guide.



AZALEA TRAIL FESTIVITIES

March

18th Azalea Plant Sale

9 a.m.- Noon, Downtown Square
Local nurseries and garden clubs offer a variety of plants
including 30 varieties of azaleas. There will also be perennials,
houseplants and other choice ornamental shrubs and trees.
Sponsored by the Flora Garden Club.

25th Portraits in the Azalea Garden by Creative Photography

8:30 a.m. - Noon

Have your family spring-time portraits taken in the beautiful surroundings of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden by the professionals at Creative Photography. Appointments are necessary. \$25 sitting fee. Special portrait pricing available. For more information or to schedule your appointment call 936-560-5143 or log on to www.creativephotostudio.com

25th Loblolly Liberator Bike Ride

Featuring five courses ranging from 10 to 100 miles. Riders enjoy the beautiful scenic landscape of East Texas. For registration information log on to: www.nactreatmentcenter.org

25th The Art of Floral Design, Color & Textures from the Gardens

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 311 E. Main St., Downtown A showcase of floral arrangements highlighting the horticultural talents of local gardeners, designers and plant enthusiasts. Sponsored by the Nacogdoches Art League

April

1st Azalea Symposium: Growing Healthy Azaleas

Azalea gardening will be explored from many perspectives including bed preparation, propagation, pruning, diseases, fertilization, and cutting. SFA Ag Building, Wilson Drive; 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration \$25 per person. For more information call 936-564-7351. Sponsored by the SFA Mast Arboretum.

1st Portraits in the Azalea Garden by G. Patterson

Take advantage of the beautiful springtime in East Texas by creating a lasting impression of your family in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. 9.am. to 3p.m. Sessions are \$50, which will go back to help beautify the gardens. Call G. Patterson Studio & Gallery at (936) 569-7116 to make your appointment. Special portrait pricing available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Convention & Visitors Bureau 888-OLDEST-TOWN • 936-564-7351

www.visitnacogdoches.org email: info@visitnacogdoches.org