

EXPLORE the gardens



Airlie Oak Lawn

Standing tall at almost 500 years-old, the Airlie Oak tree invites guests out to the Oak Lawn. The Airlie Oak is a Southern Live Oak and draped with Spanish moss. This moss does not harm the tree and uses water & nutrients from the air to grow and thrive. In the Spring, this lawn is surrounded by thousands of bright pink azalea blooms.



Pergola Garden

A formal garden developed under the ownership of Sarah Jones. Sarah introduced many classical elements here; such as the statue of Pan, the wood nymph, at the end of the Pergola. Most of the columns are those originally placed in 1904. The steps leading into the lake allowed guests to enter into small boats. Carolina Jessamine & Confederate Star Jasmine cover the top of the Pergola and is surrounded by azaleas and sasanqua camellias. The natural grassy aisle way was developed under the Corbetts and is now referred to as the "Bridal Walk".



Minnie Evans Bottle Chapel

The Bottle Chapel was designed and built by Virginia Wright-Frierson in 2004 as a tribute to the work of Minnie Evans. Minnie worked at Airlie under both the Jones & Corbett families. She worked the ticket booth when Airlie was first opened to the public by the Corbetts. Minnie saw a vision when she was 43 years old that told her to paint or die. Her art was inspired by her dreams and visions, as well as, by the gardens and possibly oriental rugs & artwork in the Jones' home.



Tranquility Gardens & Butterfly House (seasonal)

The Tranquility Garden features several smaller gardens maintained in-kind by private organizations. Centennial Plaza, with its columns & fountain, was dedicated in 2002 on the 100-year anniversary of the creation of the Airlie Lake. The Butterfly House was completed in 2010. The open air house is filled with North Carolina native butterflies and a variety of blooming plants.



Spring Garden

Once a formal area adjacent to the Jones' mansion. The Spring Gardens is the lowest lying area of Airlie and prone to flooding. Waters are said to have reached the top of the head of the fountain statue during hurricanes. Through the columns, the path leads to the last remaining vestiges of the mansion - a brick patio, which would have been in the backyard of the home. The mansion itself no longer exists.