

# Wister Gardens



Free Admission 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Daily  
Closed on Major Holidays

Just north of Belzoni on Highway 7, visitors will be delighted by beautiful Wister Gardens. The 14 acre Wister Henry were developed by Frances Chiles Henry and Wister Henry beginning about 1937. Now supported by a permanent trust, the gardens feature free admission with spectacular year-round viewing.

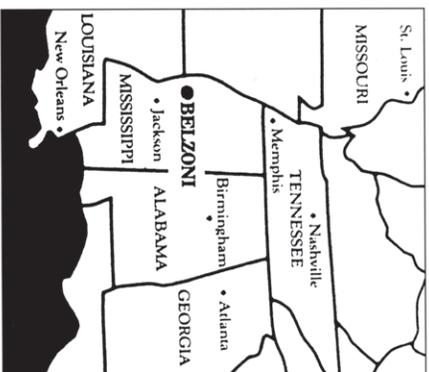
Thousands of azaleas of many varieties line pathways, cover wooded areas and drives, and set the Garden aglow from about March 25 to April 25. Hundreds of roses are scattered throughout the gardens, with two designated rose gardens. Daylilies abound in the Garden with the best viewing of the hundreds of varieties during early June through July.

Crape myrtles provide outstanding color through the months of July, August and September.

Other attractions in the gardens are a 6-sided gazebo, a place where outdoor weddings are held and where some come to enjoy the trees and flowers on a summer's day. A large fountain from Italy installed over an artesian well is the home of large goldfish and water lilies. A statue of Johnny Appleseed is across the lawn from the Garden House. This was an award presented to Mr. Henry by the Men's Garden Club of America and is the highest award presented to gardeners. A year-round glassed-in garden house, heated in winter and air conditioned in summer, is available by reservation for special occasions. The Garden Club of Belzoni established an arboretum at the Gardens in 1983. Identification markers were placed on 150 different varieties of trees and shrubs.

Visitors walking through the gardens will not only see beautiful flowers and shrubs, but will enjoy watching the various fowl roaming the spacious acreage. White Mute Holland swans, Black Australian swans, and a variety of ducks occupy the four acre lake.

Phone: (662)247-3025 - [www.wistergardens.com](http://www.wistergardens.com).



Distances To Belzoni From:	
Jackson	80
Memphis	168
Birmingham	275
New Orleans	269
Nashville	360
Atlanta	429
St. Louis	461

## Let Belzoni Grow Your Business

Belzoni-Humphreys County: There is no better place to call home! Everyone has land and buildings, but we have special people; people who care about their community and the success of their local businesses. We are a small town and can cut through all the red tape involved in an expansion or relocation.

We offer Federal Empowerment Zone tax credits, State job tax credits, local tax waivers, Freeport warehouse, right to work state, local incentives and an excellent quality of life for your employees. Our web site is loaded with reasons to call Belzoni, Mississippi, your industrial or family home. For more information, visit [www.belzonims.com](http://www.belzonims.com).

## Catfish on Parade

There are 42 beautifully painted catfish sculptures at different locations throughout Belzoni. Keep your camera handy, the photo ops are numerous.

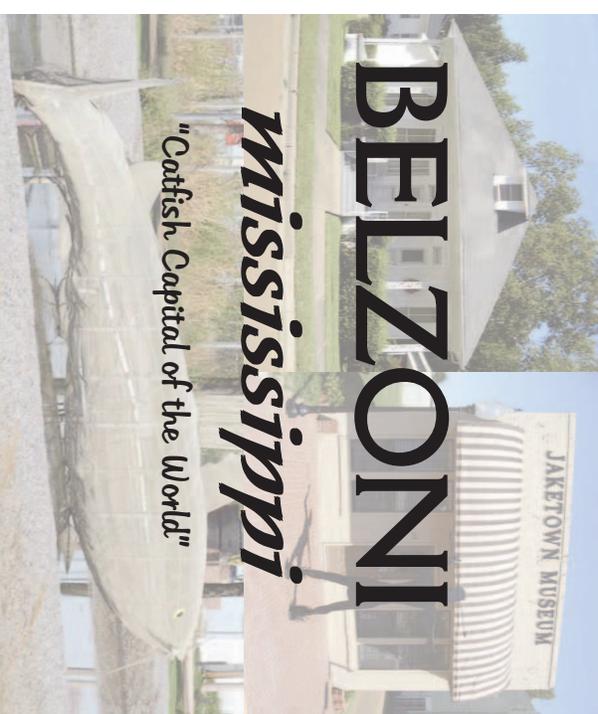


**For additional information, please contact:  
Belzoni-Humphreys Development Foundation**

**P. O. Box 145**

**Belzoni, Mississippi 39038**

**(662)247-4838 or 800-708-4838**



**Wister Gardens**

**Catfish on Parade**

**The Ethel Wright  
Mohamed**

**Stitchery Museum**

**Jaketown Museum**

**Catfish Museum  
& Visitor Center**



**Located in the heart of the delta**

**[www.belzonims.com](http://www.belzonims.com)**

# The CATFISH Museum & Visitor's Center

The Catfish Capital of the World is making a big splash with its Catfish Museum & Visitor's Center. Visitors can view catfish farming from pond to plate.

Housed in an old railroad depot, the center was designed by architect John Robbins of Oxford, Mississippi. Robbins is known for such projects as the Statue of



Liberty  
Renovation and the J. Paul Getty Museum addition.  
Exhibits depicting various aspects of the farm raised catfish industry were designed by the

New York design firm of Charnayeff & Geismar, Inc. Their exhibitions can be seen throughout the country in places such as the Statue of Liberty Museum, the Ellis Island Museum, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and the Smithsonian Institution.

Indoor exhibits feature hand crafted displays by Mississippi artisans using paper relief, ceramics, metal and wood carvings, a video also explains the various aspects of catfish farming including constructing ponds, hatching eggs and seining.

Outdoors a flower sculpture made of spawning cans welcomes visitors as they arrive. Hatching tanks and seining nets complete the display by the entrance.

Last, but not least, is a miniature catfish pond featuring a 40 foot catfish fountain. "King Cat" reigns.

Visitors will leave with a better understanding of catfish farming along with a handful of recipes and Southern hospitality.

The Catfish Museum & Visitor's Center is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information call (662)247-4838 or 800-708-4838 or visit us at [www.belzoni.ms.com](http://www.belzoni.ms.com).

## The Ethel Wright Mohamed Stitchery Museum

*"Mama's Dream World"*  
307 Central Street

Often called Mississippi's Grandma Moses of stitchery, Ethel Wright Mohamed has painted, with beautiful and intricate stitches, the stories of her family on fabric and has given us a history which now represents in many ways the history of the Mississippi Delta and a past way of life. The history includes her marriage, eight children, the beloved Mitite who helped to raise the children and care for the family, and numerous scenes of the memories they all shared.

Visitors are guided through the exhibit by a daughter of Ethel Mohamed, who gives a very personal and first-hand glimpse of the delightful stories behind each piece. Her guide through the museum reveals room after room filled with pieces which Ethel Mohamed has done from her own sketches of family



memories or imagined events. The sketches have been filled with very intricate, fanciful and colorful designs to capture treasured moments of time. You will love the numerous decorative trees, done with vivid imagination, all different and yet seeming to come from the same dream world; you will begin to feel that you know the eight children who appear again and again as she captures them for all time in her favorite memories of them; also watch carefully for them to appear in forms and symbols other than themselves. You will be surprised and wonderfully entertained.

Ethel Mohamed's work is represented in the Smithsonian Institute along with numerous other awards and recognitions for her achievements. She received the 1991 Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award for "Excellence in the Arts."

Tiny replicas of Ethel Mohamed's work are available in full color on cards, prints, cookbooks, and on sweatshirts.

For tours call Carol Ivy (662)247-1433.  
Admission \$2.00  
Visit us at [www.mamasdreamworld.com](http://www.mamasdreamworld.com)

## Jaketown Museum

116 West Jackson Street

The Jaketown Museum chronicles the Jaketown Site located North of Belzoni on State Highway 7 from the Late Archaic Period (1750 BC - 500 BC) through the Woodland Period (500 BC - 1000 AD) to the Mississippi Period (1000 AD - 1500 AD). People lived at this site during these periods, as evidenced by artifacts that have been found there. These represent all 3 periods.

Life was very simple with these people living in huts like the replicated Jaketown house displayed. The daily life of these plain people is depicted with the 11' x 21' oil mural



of very early Americans of the Archaic Period. This period is pottery, agriculture, and pre-bow and arrow. Samples of some of the tools hunters used to hunt the wild animal can be viewed. The Jaketown site is located on what is believed by some to be the east channel or the Ohio River as it ran through Mississippi. This abandoned channel became known as the Yazoo River, named for the Native Americans who lived along this stream during the Mississippi Period.



The people of Jaketown are part of the Poverty Point Culture, who are considered among the first known inhabitants in the Lower Mississippi River Valley to leave behind evidence of an elaborate culture.

The people of this time fabricated useful (projectile points, tools) and beautiful (beads, gorgets, effigies) items from stone that had to be brought from great distances, since there are no stones native to the area.

For more information, call (662)247-2151.