



THE SOCIETY

The Southern Garden History Society was founded in early 1982 as an outgrowth of a continuing series of conferences at Old Salem, North Carolina on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes." Its purpose is to promote the study of the history of landscapes, gardening and horticulture in the South, collaborating with the American Horticultural Society and other similar organizations in the United States and abroad which have the same objectives of preservation and restoration.

The Society endeavors to locate and index relevant materials. Its plans include the establishment of a library housing documents, plans, designs, drawings, catalogs, papers, photographs and slides connected with the study of southern garden history. The geographic area which the Society encompasses includes Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Membership dues are \$15 yearly. An annual meeting will be held each Spring, in a different part of the South, to receive reports of research and projects of members, to hear lectures and to visit gardens of historic importance in the vicinity.

For more information, write:

Southern Garden History Society
Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108



REGISTRATION

A fee of \$125.00 covers all conference events listed. Registrations are limited and will be accepted in the order received. The deadline for reservations is March 1, 1986. No refunds will be made for cancellations after March 5, 1986.

If space is available, late registration is accepted with an additional \$15.00 fee. Please fill out the enclosed registration card and mail it as soon as you can.

The motel arrangements are not included in registration. There are several nice motels in the area. These arrangements are left up to you.

All meals listed on the schedule are included. Meals for Sunday are not included and you must arrange for these on your own.

Local registrants are asked to plan on taking their cars instead of riding the buses. Bus spaces are reserved for out of town registrants needing transportation.

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A word of warning: Montgomery isn't the easiest place in the world to fly into. Driving is to be preferred.

Montgomery is serviced by Delta, Republic, Eastern Metro Express and Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA). Their schedules can be very restrictive. Be sure to check on flights before you decide. If your time is limited, you may want to fly into Atlanta and rent a car. We are three hours driving time from Atlanta down Interstate 85.

There is free limousine service from our airport to the hotel, but you must arrange this for yourself. A day or so ahead, call 1-205-288-2800, ask for the desk manager and give him all of the information.

If you need transportation while in Montgomery for the optional tours, check the square on the registration card.

SCHEDULE

The Spring Meeting will be held at the Governor's House Hotel and Conference Center, 2705 East South Blvd., Montgomery, Alabama on March 14-16, 1986.

FRIDAY

All Day Two individual driving tours:
(1) 20 gardens, old and new, in three neighborhoods
(2) Historical driving tour of the city

6:00 p.m. Social Hour, Educational Displays, Cash Bar - Senate Room, Governor's House Hotel

7:00 p.m. Opening Banquet - Capitol Room
Welcome

Program Speakers:

"Alabama - Her Successive Waves of Development"
Dr. Edwin C. Bridges, Director, Alabama Department of Archives and History
"Fine Tuning the Period Garden"
George R. Stritkus, County Agent, Montgomery County, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet - Capitol Room

Speaker:

"A Brief History of the Magazine and the Gardens Pictured in It"
Dr. John A. Floyd, Jr., Editor, *Southern Living Magazine: Classics*

Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. Board Buses for Tours
Thigpen-Hill Garden, Governor's Mansion Garden
Hull Street Historic District "Hullabaloo",
Orleman Shaw Complex, Grange Hall Exhibit,
"Alabama - Her People, Houses, and Gardens"

Noon Box Lunch at Dr. Givhan's, Rest Break

3:00 p.m. Board Buses for Millbrook Excursion
Peyton Bibb House (cir. 1820), "Lanark" -
The Wiley Hills Home, John Weekley Native
Azalea Collection, Jasmine Hill Gardens

Night Supper at Jasmine Hill Gardens

SUNDAY

Morning Repeat of Friday's optional tours
for those who missed them

Noon Drive to Lowndesboro for tour of "Rosewood"
Lowndesboro Pilgrimage - Tour of Homes

SPRING MEETING



SOUTHERN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

March 14-15, 1986 Montgomery, AL

PREVIEW OF THE MEETING

We believe we have put together an exciting 4th Annual Meeting of the Southern Gardening History Society, here in the "Cradle of the Confederacy." It has enough flexibility to fit everybody's schedules and enough diversity to appeal to everybody's interests.

Our meeting headquarters is the newly decorated Governor's House Hotel and Conference Center on our Southern Bypass. We will have a registration table set up in the lobby all day Friday for your convenience.

FRIDAY

Although our meeting doesn't begin until Friday evening, we encourage you to come earlier and take advantage of two optional driving tours.

One is a Historical Driving Tour of Downtown Montgomery. Furniture buffs are encouraged to stop and take a free tour of the First White House of the Confederacy. Built in 1840, many of the rooms are arranged just as Mrs. Davis directed, using much of the furniture belonging to the family. This white, Italianate, two-story house contains many other personal artifacts of the Davises', all charmingly and tastefully displayed under the curatorship of Mrs. Cameron Napier III. She strives to keep its modest garden in all white flowers, a theme garden with a touch of 19th century sadness. Once located near our Civic Center, it now stands exactly where the Onstead Brothers recommended — adjacent to our lovely Capitol Building.

Our Capitol Building is gleaming from the 3.3 million dollars recently spent in exterior restoration. This 1851 State House, with its three later wings, is currently undergoing a long overdue, 16 million dollar interior restoration. After two years of research, led by Mr. Robert Gamble of the Historical Commission, it will be one of the most thoroughly documented restorations of any State House in the U.S. The landscape plan for this building was done by Mary Walton Upchurch, A.S.L.A., a Montgomery native. It is on display with our educational exhibits.

This tour also takes you by one of the most profound spots in the city — the multi-storied Winter Building, which stands adjacent to our large cast iron fountain at Court Square. From the second story telegraph office of this building in 1865, the message was sent to fire on Fort Sumter, beginning a revolution that would forever alter the Southern way of life.

At this very spot, nearly 100 years later, a bus driver asked a black woman to move to the back of the bus. She refused, beginning another

revolution that would radically alter the South — the second continuing where the first left off.

For those less inclined, or for whom this is all old hat, we have prepared a second driving tour, featuring gardens in Montgomery — some old, some new; some large, some small; some the work of skilled landscape architects, some the work of plain gardeners expressing their love of flowers.

Most of these gardens are in the old Cloverdale district. Begun in 1892, it is the earliest garden designed residential community in the state. It contains the house leased by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1931 while he was writing what some consider to be his most important work, *Tender is the Night*.

As you drive around, feel free to stop and walk in any yard displaying our logo. In fact, you'll miss a lot if you don't. Take as much time as you want, but be back at the hotel by 6:00 p.m. for our social hour. Check out the educational exhibits while you mingle.

The general theme of the programs of our opening banquet is "Fine Tuning the Period Garden." Dr. Ed Bridges is a progressive young Georgia native who is revitalizing and providing capable leadership for our Department of Archives and History. He will fill you in on Alabama's developmental periods. I will show you some tools I've used to adapt those generalized period plant lists to fit our locale.

SATURDAY

Saturday morning we have the pleasure of having Dr. John Floyd of *Southern Living Magazine* speak to us on Southern Gardens, as portrayed in a Southern magazine.

After a brief business meeting, we will board the buses for our morning excursion. We will drive by and stop briefly at two notable gardens.

One garden is around the Thigpen-Hill House. It was built in 1895 in a Greek Revival style for Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, one of the foremost eye, ear, nose, and throat specialists in the U.S. At the time, it was considered to have been way out in the country. His daughter, Elizabeth Thigpen Hill, inherited the house in 1958 and promptly set about developing the two-acre garden in the then-popular azalea and camellia style, with lots of wild flowers intermixed. The house is currently owned by Dr. Terry Treadwell, a vascular surgeon from Texas, and his wife Sheryl with their young family.

Closer to town is the Ligon House. Built in 1907 for General Roben Ligon, Jr., it is considered one of the two most important houses of the Greek Revival style in Alabama. It was sold to the State in 1950 to serve as the official Executive Mansion. Its magnificent, spacious, ceremonial spaces are well worth coming back and going through. In 1972, it underwent extensive restoration, and the present landscape dates from that period. It

now occupies almost a whole city block and successfully hides a 30-car parking lot. For the last eight years, this compound and the Capitol Complex have been supervised by a professional horticultural graduate for the first time. Mr. Danny Percival keeps these areas looking better than they ever have.

Our ultimate destination is the Hull Street Historic District, which will be having their annual "Hullabaloo" this weekend. Be sure to go through the Ordeman-Shaw Complex. It is a very good example of an 1848 town-house of a successful merchant. Be sure to see the fine herb garden maintained by Judy Youngblood, our Federated Garden Clubs President.

Be sure to look in the Grange Hall at the exhibit for our meeting — "Alabama: Her People, Houses, and Gardens." After seeing the pioneer cottage, the early church, Lucas Tavern, and the school house, we will board our buses again for a leisurely box lunch in Dr. Ed Givhan's garden.

We will board the buses again at 3:00 p.m. for our afternoon excursion to Millbrook. Our first stop is Lanark Plantation — the home of Wiley and Isabell Hill, Jr. III. (We drove by his mother's garden this morning.) Isabell Hill is a sensitive and competent landscape gardener. Her large walled-garden of perennials, her azalea and camellia swimming pool garden, her naturalized daffodil hillside with its creek bank, her large reflecting lake surrounded on one side by blue hydrangeas, all betray the touch of a dedicated plant lover with up-to-date varieties, tastefully displayed.

Across the lake is the Peyton Bibb House, which functions as a guest house. Built in the 1820's by the brother of an early Alabama governor, the property was purchased by Dr. Charles Thigpen, Mr. Hill's grandfather. On a trellis, along the second story, is a Wisteria that has to be the oldest and biggest in the state.

Our next stop is to see the native azalea collection of John Weekly, a retired railroad man. His four-acre garden is typical of the countless dedicated plant enthusiasts in our state. As he traveled the rails, he would spot native azaleas in bloom. On his return trip, he usually would stop the train, tag the plants, and come back later to dig them up. Needless to say, this is a breathtaking springtime garden!

Our last stop is Jasmine Hill Gardens, a mountain retreat of Ben and Mary Fitzpatrick. They sold his chain of 17 department stores just before the Depression and occupied the remaining years making countless trips to the American Classical School in Greece to study sculpture and art. This lovely 17-acre garden, developed in the 20's and 30's, serves as the backdrop for numerous pieces of Mediterranean art, including an exact copy of the temple of Hera. The garden contains so much art, we advise you to read the six-page brochure before you come or you will miss a great deal.

Our evening meal is to be served in the 1830 early settlers house, used as a home by the Fitzpatricks. Looking much like it did when they bought it, it has a cosmopolitan air that fits in well with the menu we've selected from the Swiss chef who supervises the kitchen.

The buses will take us back to the hotel for a much-needed rest after our meal.

SUNDAY

Sunday's pace is very leisurely. You are to have breakfast on your own. You might want to pick up one of the two driving tours you missed on Friday.

Late in the morning we encourage you to drive 10 miles to Lowndesboro, west of Montgomery. By a special arrangement, their pilgrimage houses will open for us at noon. Lowndesboro is a truly unique rural village, featured recently in *Southern Living*. Few places can give you the sense of those early agricultural communities with their elegant, big houses amid woods and farmland.

On the outskirts of the community is "Rosewood," one of our best preserved early landscapes. This 1855 raised cottage plantation home was built by Dr. Hardy Vickers Wooten. He planted a cherry laurel hedge in the shape of a "W" in front of the house. Continuously inhabited since it was built, it was inherited by a daughter, then by her nephew by marriage — a Meadows — and finally by his daughter, who conveniently married a Williams. So the "W" shaped hedge remains to this day.

One other plant material of note is a 20' Star Magnolia that should be in bloom for us. We are most fortunate to have Mrs. Lilyclaire Williams open this private garden to us.

There are no eating places in Lowndesboro, so sandwiches are being sold by the ladies in the "Tea Room" — the educational building of the lovely old Episcopal Church. Built in 1857, it has been kept much like it looked when it was built. You really must sick your head in. The youngest church in this community is already 100 years old. One of them even has the copper plate cupola from the first Alabama State House built in Cahaba in the 1830's.

CONCLUSION

Well, there you have a preview of our entire annual meeting. We're really excited about it. This ought to whet your appetite. We will be sending detailed information later.

Make your plans to come spend a delightful Spring weekend with us, here in Alabama.