

Family and Brunswick Pulp Land Company and have become the focus of restoration of the internationally famous botanical garden of Dr. Louis LeConte, a descendant of French Huguenots. Here were introduced some of the first Camellias to be grown out-of-doors in America. Here were also raised the two brilliant sons of Dr. Louis LeConte: Dr. John LeConte, first President of The University of California at Berkeley, and Dr. Joseph LeConte, Professor of Geology at that University and a founder of The Sierra Club.

A few miles from here the Franklinia Altamaha was discovered by John and William Bartram, early American naturalists, on October 1, 1765. A Bartram Trail historic marker was recently placed at the entrance to LeConte-Woodmanston, marking its place on The Bartram Trail.

12:30 PM

#### Luncheon

A Barbecue, Brunswick Stew and Low Country Shrimp Boil will be enjoyed by members of The **TEA GROVE PLANTATION**, which is owned by a descendant of Louis LeConte who has collected historic and antique memorabilia, treasures which are from the surrounding area.

Return to The DeSoto Hilton by 3:30 PM

Planes departing for Atlanta:

Delta 4:55 PM Eastern 6:02 PM  
Planes departing for Charlotte: Piedmont 5:55 PM

#### REGISTRATION

Registration must be made in advance by completing the enclosed registration form. With the exception of the Saturday Luncheon, the Annual Meeting is open only to members of the Southern Garden History Society. Non-members may join by filling in the appropriate box on the form. Registration is limited to 100 members on a first come, first-serve basis.

The registration fee of \$165 covers activities on Friday and Saturday including lectures, tours, a breakfast, a luncheon and two dinners. The additional fee of \$35 covers Sunday's Optional Tour to Liberty County and The Bartram Trail including transportation, admission fee and a Low Country Luncheon. Checks should be made payable to SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY and mailed to Mrs. Joseph H. Howard, 211 E. 53rd Street, Savannah, GA 31405. Tel. 912/232-3496.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

Headquarters for the meeting will be The DeSoto Hilton where registration, lectures and exhibits will be located. Early reservations are urged inasmuch as this meeting takes place during the height of the season. Deadline will be April 10.

The DeSoto Hilton, Bull and Liberty  
Savannah, GA 31402, Tel. 912/232-9000  
Single or double: \$65 plus tax.  
Check-in 3:00 PM, Check-out 1:00 PM

#### TRANSPORTATION

The Savannah International Airport is served by

American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Eastern Airlines and Piedmont Airlines. McCall's Limousine Service and Taxi Service are available to deliver you to The DeSoto Hilton.

#### HOSPITALITY

May we extend to you the hospitality of Savannah ... "If you haven't seen Savannah, you haven't seen The South!" Bring your comfortable walking shoes so you can stroll from square to square and enjoy the unique Historic District. We urge you to extend your visit several days. For further information, we suggest you write or call the following:

SAVANNAH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tel. 912/944-0456

(ask for its VIP packet)

222 W. Oglethorpe Ave., Savannah, GA 31499

HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION, INC.

Tel. 912/233-7787

41 W. Broad St., P. O. Box 1733, Savannah, GA 31402

SQUARE ROOTS

Tel. 912/232-6866

213 Kinzie Ave., Savannah, GA 31404

Non-members may register for the 12:00 Noon Saturday Luncheon and Trustees' Garden program by sending advance registration fee of \$15.

#### HISTORY

The Southern Garden History Society was formed in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in May, 1982, as an outgrowth of a continuing series of conferences on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes." The purpose of the SGHS is to stimulate interest in Southern garden and landscape history and in the preservation and restoration of historic gardens and landscapes. The Society covers the Southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

An annual meeting is held in the Spring of each year in a different area in the South for the purpose of studying the garden and landscape history of that area and for the purpose of stimulating interchange of information and ideas among members. The Savannah meeting follows very successful meetings in Atlanta, Natchez, Annapolis, Montgomery, Monticello and Nashville.

The Society publishes a quarterly news bulletin, **MAGNOLIA**, to bring to members news of the Society and of projects and activities in garden history of the South. A dedicated committee seeks such worthwhile materials.

The Society has no paid staff or office and functions through the volunteer efforts of its officers, directors and members. Its only funds at present are the dues paid annually by members. Membership is open to anyone interested in the purposes of the Society.

# Savannah

## Seeds of Our Heritage



Savannah, Georgia

Seventh Annual Meeting  
of the  
Southern Garden History Society

May 12, 13, 14, 1989

## Seeds From Our Heritage

Savannah has been called "a secluded spot of exquisite humanness." Songs have been written about it. Books have been written about it. Many artists have painted its likeness and called it, "Elegant, Feminine, Romantic, Alluring!"

Edmund N. Bacon, distinguished city-planner, has called the Savannah scheme, "a plan so exalted that it remains one of the finest diagrams of city organizations and growth in existence."

There is not another town in all America like Savannah where you feel the richness of its heritage as you stroll through its squares, - "jewels of green velvet"; the Riverfront, "a festival of textures and atmosphere" paved with cobblestones brought over as ballast in the trading ships from England; Factors' Walk, with its splendid old buildings connected to the street by graceful footbridges; and Forsyth Park, which a visitor described in 1871 as "A small Bois de Boulogne", where magnificent tree-lined allees and a handsome, recently restored 1858 fountain invite visitors to sense the illusion of time standing still.

Savannah, that warm, gracious hostess city, cordially invites the members of The Southern Garden History Society to the Seventh Annual Meeting, May 12-14, 1989.

It is sincerely hoped that the members will "come early and stay late." To entice you to do so, we present the following program:

### FRIDAY, MAY 12

8:30 - 11:30 AM **Board Meeting**, DeSoto Hilton  
 11:30 - 12:30 **Board Luncheon**  
 1:00 PM **Annual Meeting of The Society**, DeSoto Hilton  
**Program**, "Parks, Squares, Trees of Savannah", by Dr. Donald Gardner, Director, Park & Tree Commission  
 1:30  
 2:30 - 4:30 **Bus Tour of The Historic District**. This tour includes the Riverfront, Factors' Walk, Bay Street, the Historic Squares, Emmet Park, and the site of the original Trustees' Garden, which was begun in 1733 by General James Edward Oglethorpe and the Trustees (who founded the colony) as an immense agricultural experiment with plants and herbs from all over the world. It will also include a visit to The Owens-Thomas House, one of America's magnificent examples of The Regency period, designed by William Jay and built during the period of 1816-1819. Particularly interesting to SGHS members will be the garden, recently restored by a dedicated group of volunteers headed by Louisa Farrand Wood, niece of Beatrix Farrand, the eminent landscape architect.

4:30 - 6:30 Free time to visit other house museums and shops, to stroll through other parks and squares and perhaps to visit The Savannah College of Art and Design, near the DeSoto Hilton.

6:30 PM

### Wine and Dinner at The Green-Meldrim House.

This historic mansion was built in 1853 by the architect-builder, John S. Norris, for Charles Green, a wealthy cotton merchant. General William Tecumseh Sherman established his headquarters here when he gave the city to President Lincoln as a Christmas present after the surrender of Savannah in December, 1864. After subsequent ownership by Judge Peter Meldrim, former Mayor of Savannah, the mansion was sold to St. John's Episcopal Church, and now serves as its Parish House.

**Program**: "William Stephens at Bewlie: A Brief Look at Georgia's Colonial Environment", by Dr. Phinizy Spalding, Professor of History, University of Georgia, Athens, and author of several books on General Oglethorpe and the founding of Georgia.

### SATURDAY, MAY 13

7:30 AM

### Breakfast, The DeSoto Hilton, Harborview Room

**Program**: "A Botanical Rivalry: Stephen Elliott, William Baldwin and Louis and John Eatton LeConte", by Dr. George Rogers, Professor Emeritus of History, Georgia Southern College, Statesboro, Georgia

9:30 - 11:30

### Walking Tour of Walled Gardens of Savannah

This tour will feature visits to several secluded private courtyard gardens with refreshments served at Massie Heritage Interpretation Center, Georgia's oldest school in continuous operation, designed by John S. Norris, completed in 1856. No one will want to miss "The Heritage Classroom" or the architectural exhibits showing the influence of Greek, Gothic and Roman architecture on Savannah's built environment.

12:00 Noon

### Luncheon, The DeSoto Hilton, Harborview Room

**Program**: "The Chelsea Physic Garden and The Trustees' Garden: A Heritage of Horticulture" by Allen Paterson, Author, Herbalist and Director, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario. Former Director Chelsea Physic Garden, London, England.

**Program**: "A Concept of The Trustees' Garden Restoration", by Bruce Kelly, Landscape Architect for The Master Plan for The Restoration of Central Park, New York City, Including Strawberry Fields

2:15 - 3:30

Free Time

3:30

**Bus Tour: Victorian District** including Forsyth Park, **Ardsley Park**, a planned residential development, partially based on

The Savannah Plan and partially based on the Beaux Arts, "City Beautiful", concept of the Twentieth Century. Two private gardens will be visited in Ardsley Park. Continuing on to **Isle of Hope**.

5:00 - 6

**Wormsloe**. Members will have the rare opportunity of visiting the private gardens of Wormsloe Plantation, which was received by Noble Jones, one of Georgia's first colonists, as a royal giant in 1756 and remains as the only Savannah plantation in possession of its original family. Although part of the original property was conveyed to The Georgia Heritage Trust in 1974, the family retained the house and surrounding gardens. Heirloom Trees, Camellias and Azaleas grace the grounds.

6:30 PM

**Dinner** at a Private Home at Isle of Hope

### SUNDAY, MAY 14, OPTIONAL TOUR

8:30 AM

### Bus Tour to Liberty County and The Bartram Trail

A brief stop will be made to visit "The Bamboo Farm", The Coastal Area Extension Research Center, located in Chatham County, which was started in 1906 as the Plant Introduction Station of The United States Department of Agriculture. Research is conducted here on the hybridization of Roses, Daylilies, Tropical Hibiscus, Crape Myrtle, Magnolias and vegetables. The culture of Bamboo continues, with frequent shipments to zoos housing pandas.

Continuing along **The Bartram Trail**, visitors will now be entering **Liberty County**. Sometimes referred to as "The Cradle of American Freedom," this area overflows with historical significance and natural beauty. Three Signers of The Declaration of Independence lived in Liberty County; they were Lyman Hall, George Walton and Burton Gwinnett.

First will be a visit to **MIDWAY**

**CONGREGATIONAL Church**, built in 1792 by a group of descendants of the Puritans who came to America in 1630. The church was organized in 1754 as The Midway Congregational Church and Society and is listed on The National Register. **The MIDWAY CEMETERY** contains graves of The Reverend Charles Colcock Jones (The Jones of Robert Manson Myers' *Children of Pride*) as well as Louis and Ann Quarterman LeConte.

This visit will also include **THE MIDWAY MUSEUM**, a replica of the 1828 sketch of The Riceborough Inn, a coastal raised cottage. This tiny museum contains a splendid exhibit of The LeConte-Woodmanston Restoration Project.

11:00 AM

### A visit to THE LECONTE-WOODMANSTON PLANTATION SITE

63.8 acres of this 1810 rice plantation and garden were conveyed to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. in 1977 by the heirs of the C. B. Jones