

By the conclusion of the evening it is our hope that you will understand why Washington loved his country seat so much that he wrote a friend, "I can truly say I had rather be at Mount Vernon with a friend or two about me than to be attended by the officers of state and the representatives of every power in Europe."

- 8:00 **Dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn.** A dinner consisting of heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served just a short walk from the mansion.
- 9:30 Depart Mount Vernon for Old Town Holiday Inn or Washington, D.C. tour. For those who desire, we offer a night-time driving tour of Washington, D.C. and its magnificent monuments.

### SUNDAY, MAY 20 OPTIONAL TOUR

Breakfast is on your own.

- 8:30 Vans depart the Holiday Inn for a day of touring some of the finest gardens in Washington.
- 9:00 **Tour of the White House Grounds.** The expansive grounds surrounding the White House have played a key role in the history of this most auspicious residence, reflecting the tastes of many of the Presidents and First Ladies.
- 10:30 **Tours of the Gardens of Evermay and Tudor Place.** The group will split in half to visit these sites.

On a commanding level, yet almost hidden from the street by a mellow brick wall, **Evermay** in Georgetown is a restored beauty that fulfills the promise of its name and gracefully coordinates the treasured past with the present. The magnificent manor house, in the late Georgian tradition, is the home of Mrs. Peter Belin. With the use of graduated terraces, the lush gardens conform nicely to the landscape, displaying a sunken garden, beautiful statuary, and unspoiled views of the city below.

**Tudor Place** stands alone in the nation's capital as a house of architectural distinction and was lived in by succeeding generations of the same family, 1805-1983. The Peter family was closely tied to George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, Robert E. Lee, and others who shaped America's history. The large neoclassical house is surrounded by extensive gardens complete with lawns, groves, parterres, and delightful walks through the woodland developed by the Peters in the Federal period.

- 12:00 **Lunch at the Anderson House,** a superior example of the Washington "Great House," including a tour of both house and garden. A career diplomat, Larz Anderson served as American Ambassador to the courts of Belgium and Japan. Upon his death in 1937, the house and its contents were given to the Society of the Cincinnati, the oldest patriotic organization in the United States, for a headquarters. Founded in 1783 by the officers of the Continental Army, the Society today is composed of their descendants.

- 2:00 Groups will visit the gardens of the homes they did not see in the morning, either Evermay or Tudor Place.

- 3:00 **Dumbarton Oaks Tour**—a must for landscape architects, landscape designers, and gardeners alike! In cooperation with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, who purchased Dumbarton Oaks in 1920, these magnificent gardens were designed by the noted landscape gardener Beatrix Farrand. Painstakingly thought out, the garden is planted on terraces, and features beautiful ironwork, pools, fountains, garden sculpture, a pebble garden, and a vast assortment of plant material.

### REGISTRATION

Registration must be made in advance by completing the enclosed registration form. The meeting is open only to members of the Southern Garden History Society. Nonmembers may join by filling in the appropriate box on the form. Registration is limited to 125 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

The registration fee of \$185 covers activities on Friday and Saturday, including lectures, transportation, tours, receptions, refreshments, Friday dinner at Gunston Hall, Saturday lunch at Woodlawn Plantation, and Saturday dinner at Mount Vernon. An additional \$40 covers Sunday's optional tours.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms have been set aside at the Old Town Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Virginia, at a cost of \$95 for single or double occupancy. Reservations must be called in or mailed and received by April 19th; beyond this date, room rates will increase. Call 800-368-5047 (in Virginia, 703-549-6080). Mailing address of the Holiday Inn is 480 King Street, Old Town Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

### TRANSPORTATION

Washington, D.C. is serviced by three major airports: Dulles International in Virginia, Baltimore-Washington International in Maryland, and Washington National in Washington. By far the most convenient of these is Washington National Airport. It handles almost all airlines, and is located only 10 minutes from the headquarters hotel. The Old Town Holiday Inn offers free shuttle service to and from Washington National Airport.

### THE SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1982 as an outgrowth of a continuing series of conferences on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Members include garden historians, restoration specialists, horticulturists, landscape architects, and others interested in the study of the history of landscapes and gardening in the South.

An annual meeting of the membership is held every spring to hear reports of research and projects of members and to visit gardens of historic importance in the vicinity. The annual meeting in 1991 will be held in New Orleans.

A quarterly bulletin, *Magnolia*, is also published by the Society, and includes research papers, news of landscape restoration projects, and related member activities.

# Annual Meeting

Southern Garden History Society

May 18-20, 1990

Alexandria, Virginia



HOSTED BY THE MOUNT VERNON  
LADIES' ASSOCIATION



elcome to the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, featuring lectures, tours, and special evening activities that will surely transport you back to the 18th century. We trust you will enjoy Virginia's gracious Southern hospitality in the company of genial colleagues, spirited conversation, and fine food and drink.

Our base of operation will be the Old Town Holiday Inn in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Established in 1749, Alexandria was for many years one of the busiest seaports on the Atlantic coast. It is a city rich in history, with a distinguished heritage. George Mason and Robert E. Lee were native sons. George Washington owned property here and selected land across the Potomac River as the site of the new Federal city known today as Washington, D.C. Alexandria's charm and beauty continue to attract visitors today.

The annual meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, but members who are in town on Friday morning will be granted free admission to the Carlyle House if they wear their nametags. Built in 1752 by John Carlyle, a prominent merchant, this wonderfully restored house/museum is located just three blocks from the Holiday Inn. Try to take advantage of this special opportunity!

From 6:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, for those early birds among us, an excellent Farmers Market is open in Market Square, adjacent to the Holiday Inn. Vendors offer excellent food, beverages, flowers, vegetables, and much more. This Farmers Market is well worth rising with the rooster's crow!

## FRIDAY, MAY 18

- 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Registration  
Old Town Holiday Inn Lobby
- 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. SGHS Annual Board Meeting  
Old Town Holiday Inn
- 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Board Luncheon

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- 1:00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Neil W. Horstman, Resident Director,  
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
Edgar G. Given, President, SGHS  
J. Dean Norton, Horticulturist,  
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

- 1:15 **"The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association: A Brief History of the Oldest Ladies' Organization for Historic Preservation,"**  
by Neil W. Horstman, Resident Director

- 1:50 **"18th Century Paints: Rediscovering a Colorful World,"** a lecture and demonstration by Matthew J. Mosca, historic finishes consultant

- 2:40 **"Myths and Truths of the Art of Illusion: A Demonstration of Graining and Marbling,"** by Malcolm Robson, fifth generation international master grainer

- 4:15 **An Evening at Gunston Hall Plantation,** colonial home of George Mason, father of the Bill of Rights, statesman, and political thinker whose writings and counsel played an important role in the founding of our country. Gunston Hall, a fine Georgian home, was completed in 1759. George Mason designed the house and then

brought William Buckland from England to complete the finishing architectural touches.

Our evening will consist of an after-hours tour of the house and grounds, a cocktail hour in Gunston's Visitors Center courtyard, dinner, and the SGHS annual meeting, including an address on the **"Symbolism and History of Italian Gardens,"** presented by Oatlands horticulturist Alfredo Siani. We will depart Gunston Hall between 9:30 and 10:00, returning to the Holiday Inn by 10:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MAY 19

- 8:00 Vans depart from Old Town Holiday Inn to Pier 4 in the heart of Washington's waterfront district.

- 8:45 **Cruise on the Potomac,** including continental breakfast, on board the Spirit of Washington. We will enjoy a pleasant ride down the Potomac River, viewing Old Town Alexandria, Fort McNair, and Fort Washington, docking at Mount Vernon, where the day's program begins.

- 10:30 **"Roses for the Historic Landscape,"** by Holly H. Shimizu, Public Program Specialist, United States Botanical Garden

- 11:30 **"Efficient and Effective Use of 18th Century Bulbs,"** by Brent Heath, co-owner (with his wife Becky) of the Daffodil Mart in Gloucester, Virginia

- 12:30 **Box Lunch and Tour of Woodlawn Plantation House, Gardens, and Grounds.** This plot of land, described by George Washington as "a most beautiful site for a gentleman's seat," was given to his nephew Major Lawrence Lewis and Martha Washington's granddaughter Eleanor Parke Custis following their marriage. Now a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Woodlawn was built between 1800 and 1805, and was designed by Dr. William Thornton, the first architect of the U.S. Capitol.

- 2:45 **"Masonic Influences on Garden Design,"** by C. Allan Brown, landscape architect/historian

- 3:45 **"Influences of American Gardens and Gardeners on the British Landscape,"** by Anthony O'Grady, Head Gardener for the American Museum in Bath, England

- 5:00 **Tour of George Washington's Gardens and Grounds,** by J. Dean Norton. The tour concludes at the mansion's forecourt, at which time the mansion and grounds will be open to the Society for two hours to be enjoyed as they would have on a spring evening in 1799. Cocktails will be served on the piazza, with a magnificent view of the Potomac River and the Maryland shoreline. Washington said of this view, "No estate in United America is more pleasantly situated than this." Members may tour the mansion or enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides along the serpentine avenues surrounding the bowling green. Throughout the evening there will be entertainment by a strolling soloist, as well as harpsichord and flute music on the piazza.

- 7:00 **Opera Americana** presents a special program of opera and parlor music known and beloved by George Washington.

