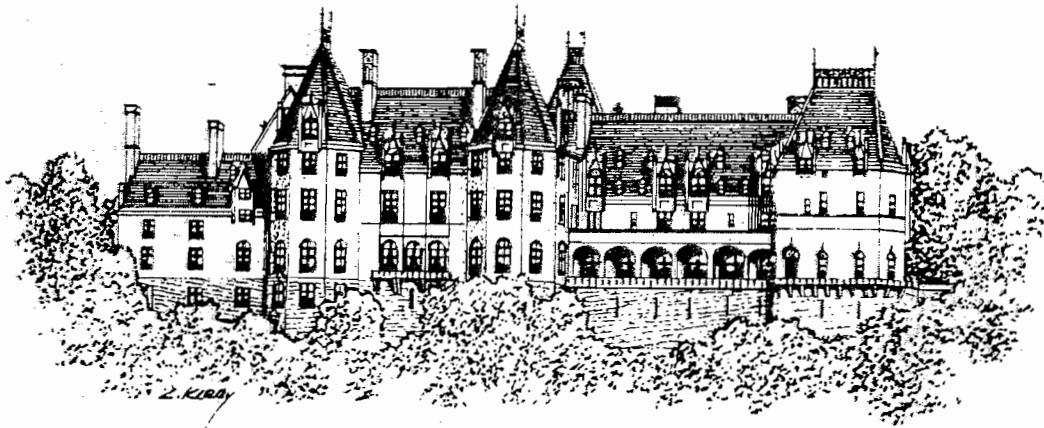


*Southern Garden
History Society*

*Sixteenth
Annual Meeting*



Mountain Heritage:
Biltmore Estate & the Blue Ridge



May 29–31, 1998
Asheville, North Carolina

WELCOME TO THE
16TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

William E. Alexander
Landscape Curator, Biltmore Estate

When George W. Vanderbilt first visited Asheville in the 1880s, the area was well known for its healthful climate and spectacular scenery. Although much of the mountain area of Western North Carolina was wilderness, the railroad that had brought Vanderbilt to Asheville spurred a boom town and a year-round resort. The creation of Biltmore Estate, which employed a thousand workers during its construction, added greatly to the prosperity of the area. Vanderbilt hired Frederick Law Olmsted, "Father of Landscape Architecture in America," to transform several thousand acres of cut-over, eroded farmland into a productive estate. Upon completion in 1895, Biltmore became a model of scientific agriculture, state-of-the-art landscaping and America's first systematically managed forest.

The influence of Biltmore and Olmsted on the area is evident in the historic communities of north Asheville and adjacent Town of Biltmore Forest. The establishment of Pisgah National Forest in 1915 from Biltmore land continues the legacy of scientific forest management, first applied by Vanderbilt, Olmsted, and Gifford Pinchot. The Blue Ridge Parkway, begun in the 1930s, provides access to "natural" gardens with the richest variety of flora in the country.

During this annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, we will explore the design philosophies and "genius" of Olmsted, his influence on the area, and current strategies for restoring and preserving his legacy. As we ascend the high elevations of The Blue Ridge Parkway, we will see first hand "The Story Behind the Scenery."

We welcome you warmly and hope you will enjoy our mountain heritage in Asheville, North Carolina, *The Land of the Sky!*



SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

"Mountain Heritage: Biltmore Estate and the Blue Ridge"
Asheville, North Carolina
May 29-31, 1998

Program

(Unless otherwise indicated all conference talks take place at the Radisson Hotel)

FRIDAY, MAY 29

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration at Radisson Hotel

Free time to visit Historic Downtown Asheville, Thomas Wolfe Home, or Antique Shops

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Comments

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

"Biltmore Estate: Frederick Law Olmsted's Landscape Masterpiece"

William E. Alexander, Landscape Curator, Biltmore Estate

2:30 p.m.

Buses depart for Biltmore Estate

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tour of Biltmore Gardens

5:15 p.m.

Buses return to hotel

6:30 p.m.

Buses depart for evening at Biltmore House

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Reception and dinner at Deerpark Restaurant

8:45 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.

Candlelight tours of Biltmore House

10:30 p.m.

Return to hotel

SATURDAY, MAY 30

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

"Landscape Preservation Philosophies: Walking in the Footsteps of Olmsted"

William E. Alexander, Landscape Curator, Biltmore Estate

"The Best of the Old and the Best of the New: Plant Selection for Landscape Restoration"

Terry Stalcup, Nursery/Landscape Supervisor, Biltmore Estate



"A Garden of Ornament, Not Utility"

Suzanne Habel, Greenhouse Landscape Supervisor, Biltmore Estate

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

"Preserving a National Historic Landmark Through Private Enterprise"

Stephen P. Miller, Senior Vice President, The Biltmore Company

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting

12:30 p.m.

Buses depart for Folk Art Center on The Blue Ridge Parkway

12:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

"The Blue Ridge Parkway - The Story Behind the Scenery"

Carlton Abbott, Architect, Carlton Abbott and Partners

"Recovering the American Chestnut"

Forrest MacGregor, Board of Directors, The American Chestnut Foundation

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tour of the Blue Ridge Parkway

6:30 p.m.

Arrival at Taylor Ranch for activities and dinner

Activities Include:

Horseshoes, volley ball, soft ball, badminton, tours of ranch by horse drawn wagons, fishing, entertainment by country variety band and professional clogging team, bonfire with marsh-mallow roast

10:30 p.m.

Buses depart for hotel

SUNDAY, MAY 31

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast on you own

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Optional tours (registration is limited and a separate fee required)

Tour of historic communities of Asheville

Tour of N.C. Arboretum and UNCA Botanical Garden

Tour of private gardens in Asheville

Tour of The Cradle of Forestry in Pisgah National Forest

(Site of the historic Biltmore Forest School)

Tour Biltmore Estate on your own (Friday's ticket can be used)

1:30 p.m.

Buses return to hotel

Meeting officially adjourned

Have a safe trip home

