



Southern Garden History Society
P. O. Box 1756
Natchez, MS 39121-1756

Southern Garden History Society 20th Annual Meeting

**Thursday, April 18 -
Sunday, April 21, 2002
Natchez, Mississippi**

Return to the River: A Gala 20th Anniversary Event

Please join the Southern Garden History Society as we celebrate 20 years of progress with many special events. There is much to see and do in Historic Natchez-on-the-Mississippi, where the Society held its second annual meeting in 1984. We revisit old favorites and explore new discoveries.

This year's conference opens informally on Thursday afternoon, with a variety of walking tours and exhibits exploring the historic downtown and adjacent residential districts. In addition to the optional Sunday full-day tour (this year to Port Gibson and Vicksburg), we will offer two excursions on Monday, designed to accommodate those traveling via airports in Jackson (Mississippi) and Baton Rouge (Louisiana), but also for anyone wishing to extend their stay in the area.

Please come early and stay late -
enjoy our famous hospitality!

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

- Registration opens 2 p.m.
- Self-guided walking tours, and opportunity to visit historic homes on your own
- Special exhibits and informal reception at the Historic Natchez Foundation

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

- 9-11:30 a.m. - Small group walking tour of Washington Street, with private gardens open to view, and refreshments at designated stops
- 1 p.m. - Opening Session
Welcome and papers: Elizabeth Boggess: *300 Years of Natchez Gardens*; Susan Turner: *Natchez in the Context of the Lower South*; Teri Tillman: *Plantings in the Historic City Cemetery*; Bee Byrnes: *Bushes, Bones and Bios: "Plantings" in the Historic City Cemetery*; Tour: Gardens of the Upriver District, including the City Cemetery.
- 6:30-9 p.m. - Evening at Historic Monmouth Plantation: a Cocktail Buffet celebrating 20 years of SGHS Authors (book sales and book signings)

SATURDAY, APRIL 20:

- 9 a.m. - Annual Business Meeting, followed by papers: Mary W. Miller: *Natchez Houses and their Gardens*; Susan Haltom: *The Eudora Welty Garden Project*; John Sykes: *Gardening with Mrs. Balfour: An Antebellum Vicksburg Garden*
- 11:45 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Lunch and tour: Cherry Grove Plantation, Elgin, Melrose, and Fred's Nursery (established 1900-1901)
- 7 - 10 p.m. - A Gala Garden Evening at Elms Court: dinner dance with your choice of garden-party or other appropriate festive attire!

OPTIONAL TOUR

Sunday, April 21: Washington (home of Thomas Affleck), Natchez Trace Parkway, Port Gibson (lunch in the Garden District), and Vicksburg National Battlefield Park. Minimum of 30 people required. **Separate fee (including lunch): \$60.00**

POST CONFERENCE TOURS

Monday, April 22 (minimum of 15 people required)
BATON ROUGE, with AIRPORT DROP-OFF (for flights checking in 1 p.m. or later): tour Windrush Gardens and L.S.U. experiment station (famous rose garden); a brief stop at Rosedown in St. Francisville for those returning to Natchez.
JACKSON, with AIRPORT DROP-OFF (for flights checking in at 1 p.m. or later): tour Eudora Welty's garden and historic neighborhoods in Jackson; stop at Mississippi State Experiment Station in Crystal Springs (famous for Mississippi Medallion

ornamental plants) for those returning to Natchez. **Separate fees (including admissions): Airport drop-off \$35.00; Full-day excursion (Dutch-treat lunch) \$50.00**

REGISTRATION

Registration must be made in advance by completing and returning the registration form. Registration for the Annual Meeting is limited to 160 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Confirmation will be sent by E-mail if an address is provided on the registration form.

The registration fee of \$225 includes all activities on Thursday afternoon and evening, Friday and Saturday, including lectures, transportation, tours, admissions, receptions and meals as noted. An additional \$60 is required for the optional Sunday tour. The post-conference tours on Monday are offered at \$35 for the half-day with airport drop-off, and at \$50 for the full day round trip to Natchez (lunch is Dutch-treat for the Monday tours).

In case of cancellation, fees cannot be refunded after April 1, 2002.

Attendance at this event is limited to members of the Southern Garden History Society. Annual membership dues begin at \$20 for an individual membership. Student, family, and institutional memberships are available. For information about membership please contact the Society's office at: Southern Garden History Society, Old Salem, Inc. P.O. Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27108, ph. 1-336-721-7328, or visit our web site at www.southerngardenhistory.org.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Conference Headquarters, Registration, and program sessions: **The Natchez Eola Hotel**, 110 North Pearl Street, Natchez, MS, ph 1-866-445-3652 or 1-601-445-6000, fax 1-601-446-5310. 60 rooms are available at the conference rate of \$89 (single or double occupancy) in this small, recently restored hotel, a member of Historic Hotels of America, so please make your reservations directly with the Natchez Eola as soon as possible, and no later than March 15, 2002. Please be sure to tell them that you are attending the Southern Garden History Society Conference in order to receive the conference rate.

There are other hotels, guest houses, and B & B's in the downtown area, some of which are within walking distance of the Conference Headquarters, which are listed on the enclosed sheet. You may make your reservations directly with these facilities or you may contact the reservations service at Natchez Pilgrimage Tours, ph. 1-800-647-6742 or 1-601-446-6631. There is no conference discount.

GETTING TO NATCHEZ

By car: Natchez is located at the junction of U.S. Highway 61

(north-south) and U. S. Highways 84-98 (east-west), approximately 60 miles south of Interstate 20 at Vicksburg, 60 miles west of Interstate 55 at Brookhaven, and 85 miles north of Interstate 10 at Baton Rouge. It is also accessible by the Natchez Trace Parkway from Nashville, Tennessee and Jackson, Mississippi (the National Park Service Rangers strictly enforce a 50 m.p.h. speed limit)

By air: Baton Rouge (Louisiana) is the closest airport (approximately 85 miles). Jackson (Mississippi) is the principal airport for central Mississippi (approximately 120 miles). The Conference can arrange van service to Natchez (Thursday only) and return (Sunday or Monday) at a reasonable fee provided enough people request this (minimum of 6 people each way). Please let us know as soon as possible if you will need this service. Rental cars are available at both airports.

By rail: Amtrak service is available in Mississippi, with rail lines from Chicago to New Orleans passing through Jackson and Brookhaven (approximately 60 miles east of Natchez), and from Washington and the northeast to New Orleans passing through Meridian and Hattiesburg, 180 miles northeast and east respectively. Days of service and availability of seats are limited. Public transportation and rental cars are not available except in New Orleans and Jackson.

For additional information about this conference, please contact the Conference Office in Natchez:

Phone and fax: 601/445-3770

E-mail: oldigger@bkbk.com

Mail:

SGHS Natchez Conference,

P. O. Box 1756,

Natchez, MS 39121-1756

For further information about Natchez, visit the City's website: www.natchezms.us

Additional information about historic attractions, tours, and accommodations is available at www.natchezpilgrimage.com.

REGISTRATION

Name(s) as you wish it/them to appear on your name tag(s):

Affiliation (if any): _____

mailing address: _____

_____ zip _____

day phone: _____ night phone: _____
e-mail: _____

May we include your phone numbers and e-mail address in the *List of Attendees* (please circle one)? YES NO

FEES:	No.	Total
All events Thurs. p.m., Apr. 18- through Sat., Apr. 20	___ @ \$225 =	_____
Optional tour to Vicksburg, Apr. 21	___ @ \$60 =	_____
Optional tours Apr. 22		
Baton Rouge	airport drop-off ___ @ \$35 =	_____
	full-day excursion ___ @ \$50 =	_____
or Jackson	airport drop-off ___ @ \$35 =	_____
	full-day excursion ___ @ \$50 =	_____
Total registration fees enclosed:		\$ _____

Checks should be made out to: **SGHS Natchez Conference**

To help us plan, do you think you will need transportation to or from an airport, and if so, which one? We will confirm these arrangements in early April. Please note that there will be only ONE pick-up from each airport, which will probably leave the airport for Natchez late THURSDAY afternoon, depending on the times of arriving flights! We estimate the cost to be \$30-\$40 one-way based on 6 passengers. If there are more passengers, the cost may be lower.

Airport (circle one): Baton Rouge (85 miles) Jackson (120 miles)

No. of passengers: _____

Please return your check and the completed form to:
SGHS Natchez Conference
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