COLONIAL MEETS REVIVAL

THE GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES OF FREDERICKSBURG AND THE NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA

SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

23rd Annual Meeting
April 15-17, 2005

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

A port and manufacturing town of importance during the colonial and revolutionary eras, Fredericksburg, Virginia later found itself repeatedly at the center of some of the most intense campaigns of the Civil War. Abundant landmarks and landscapes of both periods continue to draw visitors to this small city located at the falls of the Rappahannock River. East of Fredericksburg is one of Virginia’s three major peninsulas, known as the Northern Neck. It is bordered on the south by the Rappahannock, on the north by the Potomac, and on the east by the Chesapeake Bay. The Northern Neck was the setting of extensive holdings by such noted colonial Virginia families as the Carters, the Lees, and the Taylors. It is also the birthplace of not only George Washington, but also of President James Monroe and of famed Confederate leader Robert E. Lee. This still largely agricultural region was spared extensive damage during the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War, aiding the survival of several of Virginia’s most remarkable homes, churches, gardens, and landscapes.

Much of the 18th-century essence of the gardens and landscapes of Fredericksburg and the Northern Neck remains. However, there are also excellent examples here of gardens restored through a 20th-century vision of their colonial glory, as perceived by such famed landscape architects as Arthur Shurcliff, Morley Jeffers Williams and Alden Hopkins. Chief among the supporters of such “Colonial Revival” endeavors was the Garden Club of Virginia, an organization which remains at the forefront of Old Dominion garden preservation efforts. A continuing recipient of their support is Fredericksburg’s Belmont, the American Impressionist Artist Gari Melchers’ Estate and Memorial Gallery, a featured conference site. For details see www.garimelchers.org. The Garden Club of Virginia’s famed Historic Garden Week runs from April 16-24, 2005. Visit www.vagardenweek.org for additional information.

Finally, Stratford Hall’s triennial Coaching Day is scheduled for Sunday, April 24. Attending this event could allow participants to close out their Virginia experience in grand style. Additional information is available at and www.stratfordhall.org

Be sure to register early. Space is limited to 150.

PLANNED EVENTS

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Noon-5:00 PM: Registration begins at the Hampton Inn-Fredericksburg. Maps plus passes for self-guided visits to historic houses and garden sites, including Kenmore, Chatham (Ellen Biddle Shipman Garden), the Mary Washington House, the Rising Sun Tavern, the James Monroe Museum and much more will be provided.

Friday, April 15, 2005

8:00 AM Busses depart the Hampton Inn for the Great Hall at the University of Mary Washington. Registration continues at the Great Hall.

9:15 AM Welcome and introduction to Fredericksburg landscapes and gardens.

Presentations by:

Mr. M. Kent Brinkley, CLA, FASLA, landscape historian and practicing landscape architect: Master of the Colonial Revival Style: the Work of Alden Hopkins.

Lunch, Great Hall


Presentations will be followed by walking tour of Fredericksburg historic sites and gardens. Directions will be provided to private gardens (including a little-known Alden Hopkins garden) open to participants only. Trolleys and busses will be available during the afternoon and for return to the Hampton Inn.

6:30 PM Busses depart the Hampton Inn for Belmont, where we will enjoy dinner in the 1920s Colonial Revival style gardens.

9:30 PM Busses start returning to Hampton Inn.
Saturday, April 16, 2005

8:15 AM  Northern Neck Excursion
Buses depart the Hampton Inn for Stratford Hall Plantation. We will not be returning to the Hampton Inn until late evening so members should dress accordingly and wear comfortable footwear.

Annual Business Meeting at Stratford Hall

Presentation by:
Mr. Kenneth M. McFarland, Stratford Director of Preservation and Education: The Plantation Landscape of the Northern Neck.

Next, we leave for visits to Landon Carter’s famed ca. 1735 home, Sabine Hall, and John Tayloe II’s 1748-58 dwelling, Mount Airy, and their respective gardens/landscapes. Participants will also visit Menokin, which was once the home of Declaration of Independence signer Francis Lightfoot Lee and is now a stabilized ruin with an adjacent visitor’s center and evocative landscape setting. Box lunches will be served.

In the afternoon, we return to Stratford for tours of the house, garden, and Stratford’s Potomac River mill. Members of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society will provide period entertainment, while dinner featuring foods of the Chesapeake Bay will be served at the Plantation Dining Room.

Sunday, April 17 2005  (OPTIONAL)
Post-Conference Tour: “Landscapes and Gardens of Piedmont Virginia.” We will tour lesser known sites west of Fredericksburg, such as Monticello and Prospect Hill, a house frozen in time. At James Madison’s Monticello we will have an extended look (under the guidance of architecture and landscape professionals working at the site) at the massive restoration now underway.

A separate tour of area Civil War battlefield sites is being considered if sufficient interest is expressed. Please indicate your interest on the Registration Form.

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Name: ____________________________
Badge Name: ______________________
Title/Affiliation: ____________________

Name: ____________________________
Badge Name: ______________________
Title/Affiliation: ____________________

Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________
Telephone: ________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________

I am interested in:
☐ Civil War Battlefield Sites Tour Option (Sunday)

Fees:
Conference Only  $275/person  $____
Piedmont Virginia Tour  $ 55/person  $____
SGHS Dues  $____

TOTAL  $____

Make check payable to: SGHS Fredericksburg Meeting

Return this form with your payment to:
SGHS Registration
P.O. Box 8377
Fredericksburg, VA 22404-8377

Be sure to register early. Space is limited to 150.

Refunds cannot be made for cancellations received after March 21.
The Southern Garden History Society was founded in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in May 1982. The purpose of the Society is to stimulate interest in Southern gardens and landscape history, in historical horticulture, and in the preservation and restoration of historic gardens and landscapes in the South.

The Society’s quarterly news bulletin, Magnolia, brings members reports of activities in garden history in the South. A major emphasis is to seek out and publish, as possible, worthwhile materials relating to Southern garden history. Another goal is to accumulate books, documents and photographs relating to Southern garden history. The Cherokee Garden Library, located in the Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia, is serving as archives for materials obtained by the Society.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the purpose of the Society, upon receipt of dues.

Membership levels and annual dues include:

- Benefactor $250
- Patron $150
- Sustainer $75
- Institution or Business $30
- Joint $30
- Individual $20
- Student $5
- Lifetime Membership $1000 (payable once)

For information about the Society, please contact:

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

Phone: 336.721.7328 (Paula Chamblee)
Fax: 336.721.7335

www.southerngardenhistory.org

HOTEL INFORMATION

Conveniently located just east of Interstate 95, the Hampton Inn-Fredericksburg, 2310 William Street. Fredericksburg is offering a conference rate of $75.00 (plus tax) per night, single or double occupancy. To receive this rate, call 1.540.371.0330 on or before March 31, 2005 and ask for the Southern Garden History Society rate. Registration will begin in the lobby of the Hampton Inn on Thursday afternoon, April 14. The Hampton Inn parking area will be the pick-up/drop-off point for bus service for Conference activities. Fredericksburg offers many other lodging options, including downtown bed and breakfast inns. Information is available by calling 1.800.654.4118 or at www.fredericksburgvirginia.net.

DIRECTIONS

Fredericksburg is located on Interstate 95, approximately half way between Richmond, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Four major airports provide service: Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD), Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and Richmond International Airport (RIC). The Richmond airport has fewer overall traffic issues than the three Washington area facilities, and is arguably the most “user friendly.” Although Baltimore-Washington is the furthest way (approximately 100 miles versus 50 miles), BWI fares are often the most reasonable of the four. Reagan National has frequent service to Fredericksburg from Alexandria by local commuter train, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). www.vre.org.

Fredericksburg is also served by Amtrak. Information is available at www.amtrak.com or by calling 1.800.USARAIL.

For assistance or additional information, contact:

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