PRESERVING OUR COASTAL GARDEN HERITAGE: CAMELLIA CULTURE AND RICE PLANTATIONS

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, being held in Savannah, Georgia, from February 28 to March 2, 2014, is limited to 150 members. For membership information, contact Virginia Hart at membership@southerngardenhistory.org

TRANSPORTATION:
Savannah Hilton Head International Airport is served by most of the major carriers. The airport is 11 miles from the Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel. Transportation to the Hilton Savannah Desoto can be on the K-Shuttle with advance reservations, (877-240-2050). Taxi Cab fare is $28.00.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel 15 East Liberty Street Savannah, 31401 – DEADLINE FOR GROUP RATE IS JANUARY 27th, 2014. Group rate is $149.00 a night. (King size bed or 2 Double beds). Hilton Savannah Desoto Website: www.desotoatlcom. Group code SGH. Phone reservations for Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel: 1-877-280-0751. Hotel parking $18.00/day. Street parking is free after 5:00pm Friday, and all weekend (be aware of street sweepers signs).

REGISTRATION:
All tours will require walking great distances at time on uneven terrain. Please wear sturdy comfortable shoes and all weather gear. Registration by check should be mailed to Southern Garden History Society P.O. Box 15732 Winston Salem, NC 27113. Or Online at www.southerngardenhistory.org/annualmeeting.html

NAME

COMPANY NAME OR INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

SPONSOR OR GUEST

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

If you prefer vegetarian meals: YES

REGISTRATION
Registration $375.00 x ______ = ______
Sunday Optional Tour $75.00 x ______ = ______
TOTAL ______
Deadline for refunds: January 31, 2014

ON YOUR OWN SUGGESTED SITES
Bonaventure Cemetery • Civil Rights Museum • Colonial Cemetery
Davenport House • Georgia State Railroad Museum and Roundhouse
Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace • Laurel Grove Cemetery
Massie Educational Center • Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
Owens Thomas House • Savannah History Museum
• Savannah Wildlife Refuge • SCAD Museum
• Telfair Museum and Jepson Center

HISTORY
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 garden and landscape history, in historic horticulture, and in the preservation of historic gardens and landscapes in the South. Membership is open to any individual, family, corporation, or organization interested in the aims and purposes of the society. Current membership includes persons, institutions, and organizations from across the United States and several foreign countries.

32nd ANNUAL MEETING of the
SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MEET US FOR A SOJOURN IN SAVANNAH

Preserving Our Coastal Garden Heritage
Camellia Culture & Rice Plantations
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 2, 2014

Southern Garden History Society
Post Office Box 15752
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27113

Riverside, Gardens of Savannah

For more information contact:
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www.southerngardenhistory.org
FRIDAY AFTERNOON WALKING TOURS
4:00pm-6:00pm
Built in 1852, the Battersea-Hartridge House and Garden is the site of Savannah’s oldest surviving parterre garden which still retains its original design. The walled garden is viewed from a two-story, shuttered pizza seen in the homes of Charleston, South Carolina and Barbados. This private garden is owned by direct descendants of the original families and original owners.

In 1848, wealthy cotton merchant, Andrew Low, commissioned New York architect John Norris to design and construct his home in Savannah. The Andrew Low House and Garden is notable for its Italianate exterior of elaborately cast iron railings and front and side balconies in contrast with its smooth stucco brick walls. The house remained in the family until the death of Andrew Low’s daughter-in-law, Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America. In 1928, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the city of Georgia purchased the historic site which still serves as its headquarters today.

Conceived in the early 1830s for Englishman Charles Green by New York architect John Norris, the Green-Moldrim House and Garden is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the Southeastern United States. The home was used as General Sherman’s headquarters during the siege of Savannah during the Civil War. The patterns of the original garden beds have been restored. Today, this National Historic Landmark is owned and operated by St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Overlooking Chippewa Square, the Stoddard-Lawton House and Garden is an Italianate sandstone, thought to be designed by John Norris who was built following the siege of Savannah, a prominent merchant and planter. Later, it became home to Alexander R. Lawton, a civic leader and member of the Georgia Assembly and the United States Senate to Austria-Hungary. The 1905 house was saved from demolition by the Historic Savannah Foundation. The current owner restored the house and adapted the garden for modern day living.

Across from Monterey Square, the Corner-Hill House and Garden was built in 1880 for Hugh Moser Cotter, president of the Central of Georgia Railroad. The four story brownstone in Renaissance Revival Style with side porches and a restored garden. Based on the existing remnants of the original garden, the present garden consists of potted plants, a fountain and restored garden walls of bent wire and cast iron fencing.

Savannah Tree Foundation President, Karen Jenkins, along with urban forester, Bill Haws, and landscape architect, Gordon Denney will talk about the care of the public parks and the Fragrant Garden and the Candler Oak Tree. Forsyth Park and the Fragrant Gardens are not-to-be-missed sites.

FRIDAY EVENING
7:00pm-9:00pm
“A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM”
The Regency Revival Style Sciarra House, completed in 1891, the first Regency Revival House in Savannah built in 1901 for one of the principal owners of the Savannah, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. This site contains the Scarborough House, Shipyard, and Maritime Museum exhibits, the gardens, and the recently-designed North Garden. Dinner and a lecture by notable Savannah landscape designer John McElhin will be provided.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1st
Lecture and Tours
8:00am-5:00pm
Gene Phillips local horticulturist and co-owner of Tubakki Camellias Wholesale Nursery, will discuss his work in camellia preservation. Phillips will also present the history of the gardens and work of gardener Arthur W. Solomon, one of America’s foremost camellia pioneers. 9:30-2:00pm
“A MORNING ON THE ISLE OF HOPE” We will explore the historic homes and gardens along the Skidaway River and its tributaries.

Wormsloe Plantation, the oldest of Georgia’s tidewater estates, has remained in the hands of the same family since the mid-1730’s when founding Georgia colonist, Noble Jones, acquired the property. In 1765 John and William Bartram visited the plantation, noting the great variety of tree fruits. During its long life, Wormsloe has been a military stronghold, plantation, early twentieth-century country residence with formal garden and farmland, today it is a historic site and tourist destination with a train—ownership—the main early 20th century house, gardens, and surrounding 60 acres of the Bartram. The remaining 740 acres are owned by the Wormsloe Foundation which the State of Georgia operates as the Wormsloe State Historic Site. This includes a magnificent oak avenue, the ruins of Jones Fortified, tabby house, and a demonstration area for interpreting colonial daily life.

Bluff Drive was once considered a resort and refuge from the summer heat. The oak lined waterfront overlooks the serene intracoastal Waterway on the Skidaway River. The Cope, Jankouko House and camellia gardens, like many gardens from the 1930’s contains many camellias and azaleas cultivated by Judge Arthur Solomon. His influence can be seen along both highways and roads all over the county.

Camellia expert Judge Arthur W. Solomon built his unique Arts and Crafts residence, Wellesley, in 1932 at Bluff’s Point on the Isle of Hope. From the early 1920’s until his death in 1962, he filled his beautiful garden with over 300 varieties of Camellia japonica and Camellia sasanqua. The property, with many of the surviving camellias, is still occupied by the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Maclean developed a three-room garden at Rural Felicity beginning in 1927 at Grimboll’s Point on the Isle of Hope. In detail in the 1933 publication, Garden History of Georgia 1733-1933, the property still retains a few historic landscape features. Landscape architect Jan Vanderhiltz designed a garden for the current homeowners in 2009.

LUNCH: Camp Villa Marie
Return from tour at 2:00pm.
Break: 2:20-3:15pm

An Afternoon at the Coastal Botanical Gardens
The 51-acre site is an historic USDA plant introduction station, which later became a regional botanical garden. Now part of the University of Georgia’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the gardens hold one of the largest bamboo collections open to the public in North America. In addition to this extensive bamboo collection, many of which was planted in the 1920’s and 1930’s, the gardens also feature the Judge Arthur Solomon Camellia Trail, a formal garden, children’s garden, and water garden. UGA College of Environment and Design, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Gregg Cottle, will discuss the site’s master plan and vision for the future.

5:45pm-9:00pm
An Evening at Lebanon Plantation with a Lowcountry Dinner The land on which Lebanon stands was a 500 acre Crown Grant made in 1756 to James Deveaux. In 1804 Lebanon Plantation, located on the Little Ogeechee River, became a rice plantation. In the early twentieth century, the Mills B. Lane family restored the main house and hired the Brevemakers of Augusta, Georgia to design the landscape. In 1999, the Lents family embarked on a multiyear restoration of the main house, outbuildings, and gardens which will be toured.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND
OPTIONAL TOUR
Limited to the first 100 paid reservations, $75.00 per person Departing from Hotel by 2 buses at 8:30am and 9:30am returning at 4:30pm and 5:30pm.

“DAY ON RICE PLANTATIONS” Dating to 1760, Le Conte-Woodmanston Plantation was first developed as an inland swampland rice plantation by John Le Conte and LeConte in Beaufort, Ga. In 1811 John’s son, Louis Le Conte, established Georgia’s first botanical garden in which he pioneered the outdoor cultivation of Camellia japonica. The garden is one of the oldest known collections of some 30 species of bulb-type plants. This world famous 19th century garden is being restored with historic roses, bulbs and camellias. This garden stands as a testament to the landowners efforts to turn a fertile tract of land with a reputation for producing tough, hardy eurham rice dikes. Nan Van Beck, an author of many articles on daffodil and bulbs, and former museum curator with the National Park Service’s Southeast Regional Office will present information on the original plantings of narcissus and daffodils at Le Conte Woodmanston Plantation.

In 1755 Springfield Plantation was developed as a large and productive rice plantation, located in Liberty County, Georgia. Beginning in the 1930’s, a direct descendant of the original owners, J.P. Stevens, acquired over 300 camellia seedlings from the famed Gerber nursery and created over 3 acres of one of the finest camellia and azalea gardens set beneath the centuries-old live oaks. Today, Dushan Farms at the heart of Springfield Plantation, maintains a complex garden of camellia hybridization, coastal forests, wildlife habitat, environmental stewardship and nature based tourism. A tour and lunch will be offered at this historic site. Entertainment will be provided by the archaeological dig at Midnight Springs at McIntosh County.

In 1897 William Brailsford of South Carolina began the development of Hofwy-Broadfield Plantation which produced some of the finest rice in the alluvial soil along Georgia’s Altamaha River. The twentieth century brought an end to the rice production but the plantation became Hofwy Dairies under the fifth generation of descendants, Miriam and Ophelia Dent. Gardens were designed for the Dents by Clermont Lee in the 1940’s. In the will of Ophelia Todd Dent in 1967, Hofwy-Broadfield was deeded to the State of Georgia. The Georgia Heritage Trust Program and Nature Conservancy Program have restored the house and some of the gardens which will be toured.