



Magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora
The Laurel Tree of Carolina
Catesby's *Natural History*, 1743

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“Sowing the Seeds of Horticulture in America,” the 2016 SGHS Annual Meeting in Charleston

By Perry Mathewes, Purcellville, VA

The Southern Garden History Society returned to the South Carolina Lowcountry for its thirty-fourth annual meeting, headquartered in Charleston’s historic Francis Marion Hotel, April 22-24. The host committee, headed by Susan Epstein, organized a meeting with scholarly lectures and visits to a variety of sites from the small formal gardens in the heart of Charleston to expansive plantations on its periphery.

Baton Rouge Landscape Architect, historian, and author Suzanne Turner opened the Friday sessions with, “Charleston as the Heart of Early American Horticulture,” exploring the fascinating personalities and places that combined to establish Charleston as the center of gardening and horticulture in early America. Her scholarly overview reminded us how Charleston hosted numerous important figures in early horticultural efforts and exploration, from Eliza Pinckney, Mark Catesby, William Bartram, and Martha Logan to Henry Laurens, Charles Drayton, André Michaux, Alexander Garden, John Champneys, and John James Audubon.

David Shields, culinary historian and chair of the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation, followed with a colorful and interesting presentation: “Vegetable Glory: The Charleston Market and Horticultural Competition.” Shields explored the astounding variety of vegetables that were shown and sold in the highly structured, open-air markets of Charleston. He spoke of the many different seed types exhibited between 1780 and the 1850s, with a heavy emphasis on a profusion of vegetable and fruit varieties. These included thirty-nine cabbages and coleworts (Battersea, Drumhead, Scotch, Savoy); ten sorts of broccolis; various peas (Dwarf, Prussian Blue, Prolific); Bradford and Georgia Rattlesnake watermelons, eight varieties of beets; Flemish carrots; nineteen varieties of lettuces; parsnips; Swedish and Snowball turnips; Mount



Photo by Perry Mathewes

Members stroll by the grand allée of live oaks leading to Mulberry Castle on the Cooper River.

Airy figs; Old Mixon, Crawford, Georgia Belle, Shanghai Honey Nectar, and Elberta peaches, and more. Shields explained how these fruits and vegetables came from an area within eighty miles of the city and how formal competitions evolved where the winners provided others with seed.

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CALENDAR

September 9-10, 2016. 10th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello, in Charlottesville, VA. Celebrate the legacy of revolutionary gardener Thomas Jefferson during the 10th annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello. Patrick O'Connell, chef and proprietor of The Inn at Little Washington, will be the keynote speaker. Visit: heritageharvestfestival.com

September 17, 2016. 18th Annual Haynesville Butterfly Festival at the butterfly capital of Louisiana, Claiborne Parish. Featured speakers include Charles Allen, Robin Bridges, and Felder Rushing. Visit: haynesville.org or email: loicelacy@suddenlink.net or ggrantgardens@yahoo.com

October 6-30, 2016. The 40th Fall Tour of Homes. The Preservation Society of Charleston welcomes visitors inside the interiors of Charleston's most historic private homes. The fascinating history of Charleston's culture, architecture, and hospitality comes alive in a rich assortment of private house tours, lunch lectures, walking tours, and behind-the-scenes programs. Visit: TheFallTours.org

October 14-15, 2016. 28th Annual Southern Garden Symposium & Workshops in St. Francisville, LA. Speakers include Michael Israel on "Botany for Butterflies...", Andrea Wulf on her book *The Brother Gardeners...*, Heidi Sheesley on "Hard to Find Treasures, Re-discovered Heirlooms...", and Ron Morgan offering "A Celebration of Flowers," workshop on floral design. Venues include visits to Afton Villa Gardens, Didier Home, Hemingbough, Jackson Hall at Grace Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Rosedown, and Temple Sinai. Visit: SouthernGardenSymposium.org

October 19, 2016. The Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center presents an Ashley Wright McIntyre Lecture featuring Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Tallamy will present practical recommendations for how virtually everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. He will discuss the unbreakable link between native plant species and wildlife. By acting on Tallamy's

recommendations, everyone can make a difference. Tickets are \$25. Book signing and reception will follow lecture. Visit AtlantaHistoryCenter.com/Lectures or call (404) 814-4150.

November 6-18, 2016. 53rd Annual Fall Outdoor Cascading Chrysanthemums display at Bellingrath Gardens and Home in Theodore, AL. Bellingrath's Mum Show is the nation's largest outdoor chrysanthemum display. For more information, including the peak bloom time, visit Mum Watch at bellingrath.org

April 22-29, 2017. Historic Garden Week in Virginia. More than 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes, and historic landmarks take part in the celebration of Historic Garden Week, described as "America's Largest Open House." This tour, organized by the Garden Club of Virginia, supports restoration projects statewide. Visit: vagardenweek.org

May 26-28, 2017. "Roots of the Bluegrass," the 35th Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting, Lexington, Kentucky. The headquarters hotel will be the Hyatt Regency, 401 West High Street, Lexington, KY 40507, phone (859) 253-1234. The room rate is \$129 plus tax. The cutoff date for reservations is April 28, 2017. More details to appear in upcoming issues of *Magnolia* and on our website: southernngardenhistory.org

September 21-23, 2017. 21st Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes, "Gardening in the Golden Age: Southern Gardens & Landscapes of the Early 20th Century and the Challenges to their Preservation," held in Winston-Salem, NC. The Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture, sponsored by the Southern Garden History Society, will be given by Sam Watters on the garden photography of Frances Benjamin Johnston. [See book review in *Magnolia*, winter 2013, Vol. XXVI, No. 1] Other speakers include Virginia Grace Tuttle, Staci Catron, and Mary Ann Eddy. Winston-Salem in the 1920s was the largest and wealthiest city in North Carolina, and a tour of its gardens and landscapes will be featured. More details to appear in upcoming issues of *Magnolia* and on our website: southernngardenhistory.org

"Sowing the Seeds.....(continued from page 1)

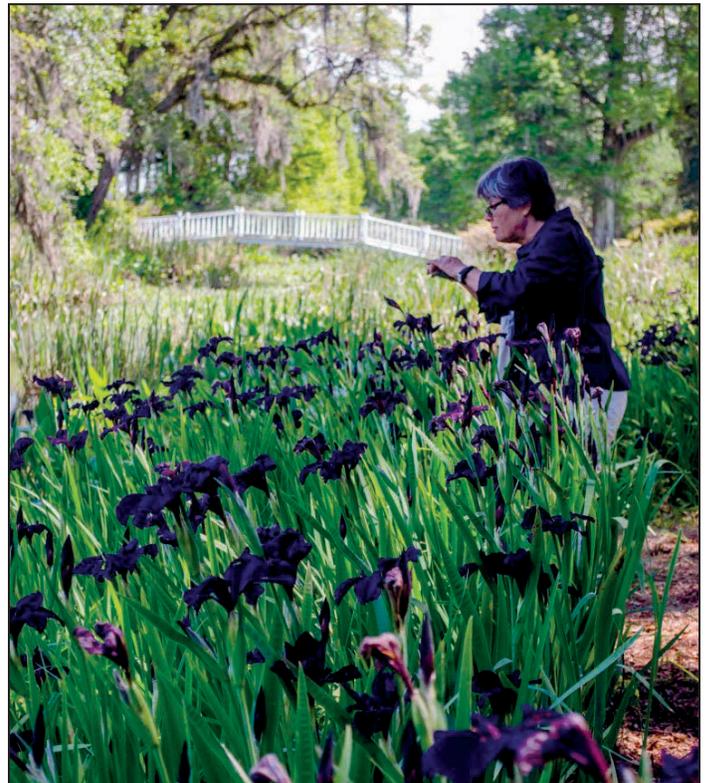
"Forgotten Gardens of Charleston," presented by public historian and archivist Nic Butler, explored pleasure gardens of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that only survive through images and records. Butler provided a "virtual tour," by including then-and-now images of the Georgia Garden, the Orange Garden, New Vauxhall, Watson's Garden, the Botanic Garden of South Carolina, and Tivoli Garden. He also included a history of one extant garden, White Point Park, Charleston's first public garden.

In "Charleston Gardens Revisited," speaker Karen Padgett Prewitt introduced us to renowned landscape architect Loutrel Briggs (1898-1977). She discussed his background in landscape design, which was heavily inspired by his many trips to gardens in England, France, and Italy, including the Villa Gamberaea, outside Florence. Prewitt discussed the ten hallmarks of his style using images of various Charleston gardens to illustrate her points. [Three essays by Prewitt were included in the annual meeting booklet. See also *Magnolia* Vol. XXVIII, No. 3, summer 2015, "Masters of the Landscape: the Divergent Paths of Magnolia and Middleton Plantations."]

The day's final speaker, Richard Dwight Porcher, expounded on the region's most important early cash crop in "Rice Culture in the ACE Basin." Porcher, a scholar, conservationist, and retired professor of integrated field biology at The Citadel, explained how the development of rice cultivation enabled the growth of Charleston. He then

explained the two primary methods of rice culture—non-tidal and tidal rice cultivation—and the mechanics behind them. He concluded the lecture with a discussion of the decline of the industry in South Carolina after devastating

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Peggy Cornett photographing Louisiana iris at Mulberry Castle.



Members are greeted by docents before entering Mulberry.

Photos by Perry Mathewes

"Sowing the Seeds.....(continued from page 3)

hurricanes in 1910 and 1911. Once productive rice fields have reverted to swamp forest and preserved for waterfowl.

Following the lectures, members headed to Charles Towne Landing to explore the exhibits in the Interpretation Center before cocktails at Founders Hall. Following a delightful meal, the annual business meeting was held where awards were announced; including a surprising two Flora Ann Bynum Awards for Bill Welch and Dean Norton. [See page 10, "Flora Ann Medal."]

Our second day was dedicated to visiting fabulous gardens of the city and surrounding areas, commencing with a walking tour of eight private gardens in the older part of Charleston. As these were all small, the SGHS horde was divided into smaller groups and then spread out under the escort of local guides. Each garden offered members different charming small spaces to enjoy. Each was unique, yet familiar themes were evident in all. These city gardens were enclosed by walls and, regardless of size, all were subdivided into smaller spaces for different uses and vignettes. A variety of edging and hedges created a sense of structure and formality. Fans of *Mrs. Whaley and her Charleston Garden* were delighted to tour Emily Whaley's famed garden. Landscape architect Loutrel Briggs had a hand, either directly or indirectly, in designing four while a fifth garden was designed by Innocenti and Webel in the 1940s.

In the afternoon, the group traveled up the Cooper River to Mulberry Castle. Members were introduced to this impressive private property by walking up a hill under low-hanging, live oak branches draped with Spanish moss and resurrection fern. The circa 1711-14 house is set high on a bluff overlooking the Cooper. Its unique architecture has been variously described as Jacobean, Anglo-Dutch, and French. Members were invited to tour the house and the extensive surrounding gardens on their own. The gardens, designed by Loutrel Briggs in the early twentieth century, take advantage of the extraordinary vistas around the home. The topography also lent itself to multiple garden spaces on different levels, providing plenty of opportunity to explore a variety of spaces. Our visit to the plantation concluded with a stop at South Mulberry, another home on

the property with its own walled garden attached.

That evening we enjoyed cocktails and supper at the Charleston Museum. Guests were invited to tour the museum and preview the André Michaux mural slated for installation at the Charleston airport, where Michaux once had a nursery. Ann Caldwell and the Magnolia Singers, a local a cappella group, entertained us with praise songs, Gullah spirituals, and stories unique to the Lowcountry.



Sunday Optional Tour

The optional Sunday tour visited the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto (A.C.E.) River Basin area south of Charleston. The morning saw visits to three former rice plantations. All are now private residences, but the remnants of the rice culture permeate the properties.

At Cockfield, just off the Combahee River, members



Meeting coordinator Susan Epstein with Lucille and Bill Welch and Barbara Adkins.



Members enjoying the garden at 54 Hassell Street.



Honorary board member Ben Page (l) with Robert Hicks and Peter Patout.



Members were treated to energetic music by Ann Caldwell and the Magnolia Singers Saturday night.



Members toured the site of Rose Hill Plantation's former rice growing operation with Richard Porcher.

saw equipment from the property's rice mill, one of the most intact rice mill facilities in the United States today. A stroll across the site allowed a view of the rice barn, now converted into a residence. In the distance, we could also see one-time rice fields in the process of being replanted as habitat for game birds and other waterfowl.

Members also visited Rose Hill Plantation. As the original and second plantation home had burned, the current owners were living in a 1920s-era tenant farmhouse. Surrounding the house, was a delightful garden the owner had developed over the years. The group then headed off across the fields to see the remnants of the rice growing operation of the plantation. Our guide, Richard Porcher, pointed out many elements of the landscape that would have escaped an untrained eye.

The group visited White Hall Plantation for a nice lunch in the stables before exploring the expansive property. The current house was rebuilt in the 1890s on the site of the original dwelling, which burned during the Civil War. Members wandered amongst the massive live oaks around the house and encountered the sun-trap garden nearby before heading across one of the rice canals to discover the secret garden in a pine grove. This one-acre garden was enclosed by a ten-foot brick wall and featured a fountain and rich plantings throughout. The lush environment caused many Society members to linger in the space to enjoy the views and the company of their peers.

This trip to the Carolina Low-country was definitely one to be cherished.

Members in the News

Longtime member **Nancy Bierman**, a doctoral student at Southern Methodist University, presented "*Lessons from Charles Darwin, Botanist: A 21st Century Perspective*," at the Graduate Liberal Studies Symposium sponsored by Rice University and SMU. Supplemented

by photographs from her trips to the Galapagos Islands as well as Darwin's home and greenhouses in Kent, England, the presentation related research by Darwin to ongoing contemporary botanical studies.

The Arcadian Gardener

Greg Grant, Center, Texas

Lilies have been among the most popular of flowers since antiquity; first as symbols of the pagan mother goddess, then as the floral emblem for the Virgin Mary. No matter what the culture, lilies and other lily-lookalikes, found their way into gardens. True lilies are in the genus *Lilium* and members of the lily (Liliaceae) family. These include the Easter lily, Madonna lily, Formosan lily, tiger lily, Asiatic lily, trumpet lily, and Oriental lily. For the most part, lilies that thrive in the rest of the temperate world sulk or die in the heat and humidity of the South.

Southern gardeners beat them hands down on lily imposters, however. Among these are the daylily, ginger lily, blackberry lily, canna lily, lent lily, Chinese sacred lily, pineapple lily, St. Joseph's lily, crinum lily, rain lily, spider lily, hurricane lily, and one of my all time favorites, the oxblood lily (*Rhodophiala bifida*). None of these are actually true lilies however. Most aren't even in the lily family. The majority of my favorites are in the amaryllis family (Amaryllidaceae). But if it looks anything like a lily, gardeners call it a lily.

I'll never forget the first oxblood lilies I ever saw. I was a first semester freshman horticulture student at Texas A&M University and lost in an older neighborhood in College Station. Being from the Pineywoods of East Texas it was very apparent that I wasn't in "Kansas" anymore. It had just rained days before. Suddenly a scene appeared before me that burned an image in my mind forever. Surrounding a modest house dotted with post oak trees were hundreds, if not thousands, of small red amaryllis-looking flowers without foliage, springing forth directly from the parched lawn. They even grew in the ditch and across the street.

Like most passionate gardeners I asked the owner if I could purchase or swap for a start. I was already a huge amaryllis fan, having purchased a greenhouse in ninth grade to house my *Hippeastrum* collection. I was also a fan of red spider lilies (*Lycoris radiata*), which appeared magically on naked stems as well. I was allowed to come back and dig a few after they finished blooming. Unfortunately all I could come up with to dig them was a kitchen spoon! That was also my first encounter with black clay and caliche. I spent hours retrieving three black skinned, long necked bulbs, which I brought back to East Texas on my next trip home. I was determined to recreate the enchanted College Station scene.

It turned out that the oxblood lily had the very same growth cycle as my beloved red spider lilies--flowers in the late summer or early fall, followed by winter foliage and summer dormancy. The oxblood, however, bloomed earlier, generally around the start of school, hence their

other common name, the "schoolhouse lily."

They are both in the amaryllis (Amaryllidaceae). But instead of being from Asia like *Lycoris*, *Rhodophiala* are from the South American countries of Argentina and Uruguay.

It seems that one of our early German-Texas plant enthusiasts, Peter Heinrich Oberwetter of Comfort and later Austin, traded native Texas rain lilies for oxblood lilies from Argentina around 1900 and began to propagate and distribute them around the heart of Texas. To this day, you'll find more oxblood lilies in the German areas of Central Texas than any other part of the state. And although heirloom red spider lilies are common throughout East Texas and the rest of the South, oxblood lilies are mainly a Texas phenomenon, often unknown outside our borders. It's not that they aren't adapted to other areas. Hardy to zone 7a, they are perfectly happy in sun or shade, high or low rainfall, acid or alkaline soils, and in clay or sand. All they ask for is winter sunshine when they are in foliage, an extended dry period during the summer to set their internal flower buds, and a good rain in August or September.

As a matter of fact, in *Garden Bulbs for the South*, friend Scott Odgen said "No other Southern bulb can match the fierce vigor, tenacity, and adaptability of the oxblood lily." And in her classic book *A Southern Garden*, Elizabeth Lawrence stated "A handful of bulbs will make a showing in a few years, or they may be had by the hundred (as *Habranthus*) from Texas at a very reasonable price." She went on to say "This delightful amaryllis from Chile is perfectly hardy in North Carolina where it has been generously and enthusiastically distributed by Billy Hunt."*

In addition to being suited to lawns, meadows, pastures, and roadsides, oxblood lilies also can be grown in Asian jasmine, mondo grass, lilyturf (Liriope), or the perennial border. They are often used around trees and



Oxblood lilies in the cemetery.

Photo by Greg Grant

along fences and driveways. And though the striking blooms only last a week or two, the bulbs will certainly enchant and outlive you.

*[William Lanier Hunt was a founding member of SGHS.]

For more information on spider lilies and oxblood lilies see:

Garden Bulbs for the South (2nd edition) by Scott Ogden (Timber Press, 2007)

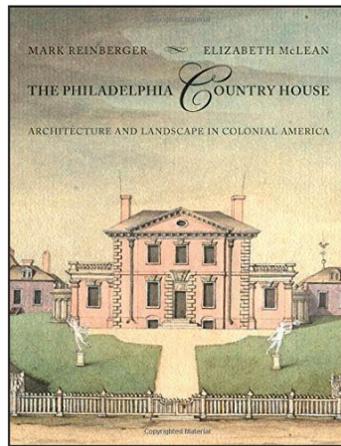
Book Review

The Philadelphia Country House: Architecture and Landscape in Colonial America, by Mark Reinberger and Elizabeth McLean | Hardcover, 465 pages | Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015 | ISBN: 9781421411637 | list price \$69.95

To what now seems like another life, or that of another person, I look back on often annual trips to Philadelphia in the 1970s and early 1980s with feelings of envy and gratitude, both wrapped in warm memory. It was then I first saw Mount Pleasant, the remarkably handsome country house built for John Macpherson in 1762-1765, admired the grounds and monuments of Laurel Hill Cemetery, which was designed by John Notman (1810-1865), who would travel south a decade later and prepare the plan of Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery in 1848, and enjoyed Fairmount Park. A number of those visits coincided with regattas on the Schuylkill River, which flows past Fairmount Park, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Graff and Latrobe's Fairmount Water Works, among other Philadelphia landmarks.

The appeal of this scenery holds to the present. With the publication of *The Philadelphia Country House: Architecture and Landscape in Colonial America*, readers learn that this gently rolling, picturesque landscape has drawn the appreciation and investment of leading Philadelphians since the early eighteenth century. It is the setting of one of the three principal groups of remarkable country places that became the subject of research by the book's authors, Mark Reinberger, an architectural historian, and Elizabeth McLean, a landscape historian.

Here in the area north/northwest of central Philadelphia, in an area known at the time as the Northern Liberties, the course of the Schuylkill is flanked on the east



A Southern Garden-A Handbook for the Middle South by Elizabeth Lawrence (The University of North Carolina Press, 1942)

Sources for oxblood lilies:

bayoucityheirloombulbs.com
brentandbeckysbulbs.com
bulbhaus.com
oldhousegardens.com
plantdelights.com
southernbulbs.com

by the generally parallel path of the Wissahickon Road, which provided convenient access to a number of estates. Other Philadelphians of the time elected to build in the Germantown area, north of the colonial city, while yet another group of like station developed country estates to the northeast, along roads leading to New York and other points. John Bartram (1699-1777) was one of the very few who chose to live south of Philadelphia, acquiring acreage on the west side of the Schuylkill in 1728 on which he would build a house and plant his gardens on terraces descending to the river's bank.

The Philadelphia Country House is an engaging, authoritative work that addresses this small but highly important group of ex-urban estates created in the Philadelphia countryside from the turn of the eighteenth century up to the eve of the American Revolution. Seated by imposing, handsomely finished houses, with gardens, ornamental grounds, and agricultural landscapes of varying extent, these country places were unique in colonial America in their number and elegance. Mr. Reinberger and Ms. McLean draw on an unusual wealth of documentation, beginning with the (Nicholas) Scull and (George) Heap map of the environs of Philadelphia of 1752, which documents the development that had occurred in the area around the port of Philadelphia by that year. (An annotated list of the names appearing on the map, with biographical data, is included in an appendix.) There is no surprise then, that the events leading to the creation of our nation were unfolding in Philadelphia in 1776. Nor, that by the end of the eighteenth century, as Roger Moss writes in his foreword to *William Birch: Picturing the American Scene*, Philadelphia was "the largest city in North America and both the cultural center and political capital of the recently fledged United States."

In 1794 Philadelphia's status drew William Russell Birch (1755-1834), an English printmaker and landscape artist, to the city. William Birch was captivated by Philadelphia and its prospects, and he soon set about producing the twenty-eight large-format views that were published in 1800 as the *City of Philadelphia*. Eight years later he pub-

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Book Review..... (continued from page 7)

lished a second work, *The Country Seats of the United States of North America*. These publications, further drawings by William Russell Birch, and other works by contemporary late-eighteenth and nineteenth-century artists were invaluable documentary sources for Mr. Reinberger and Ms. McLean, and they provide many of the illustrations in *The Philadelphia Country House*.

The authors address the English antecedents for Philadelphia country life in their opening chapter and proceed next to contemporary developments in other colonies. They note important country houses and gardens in Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island and important Southern plantation seats, including Bacon's Castle and Green Spring in Virginia, Drayton Hall and the Middleton gardens in South Carolina, together with the appearance of terraced gardens, orchards, summer houses, and various ornamental features on those and other properties, as at John Burgwin's Hermitage plantation on the Cape Fear River in North Carolina.

In the following chapters they introduce the houses and landscapes that represent the rise, fulfillment, and denouement of the Philadelphia country house, generational periods that simultaneously reflect cultural, social, and economic changes afoot in the Quaker colony, including the critical roles exercised by William Penn (1644-1718), his son Thomas Penn (1702- 1775), and grandson John Penn (1729-1795). Each of these men had impressive rural estates, Pennsbury, Springettsbury, and Lansdowne, respectively, all known from documentary sources. Alas, none survive, being losses ever the more regrettable given the expansive developments at Springettsbury and the refinement of Lansdowne. John Adams visited Lansdowne in 1795 and described the estate in a letter to his wife, Abigail, as "very beautiful—a splendid house, gravel walks, shrubberies, and clumps of trees in the English style—on the banks of the Schuylkill."

Part II of *The Philadelphia Country House*, titled "Elements and Principles of Country-Seat Design and Function," comprise four chapter-length essays. Mr. Reinberger and Ms. McLean analyze the design and construction of houses and outbuildings, their plans, exterior and interior enrichments, and furnishings, the functions and use of individual spaces and structures, and their arrangement on the rural estates around Philadelphia. The designers, artisans, and craftsmen of the colonial period, known to be associated with these country places, are also noted. James Alexander, a Scottish-born gardener who was employed by Thomas Penn by 1741, is one of the few gardeners of the period identified by the authors. In addition to his work in the Springettsbury gardens, Mr. Alexander also operated a seed and plant business in known competition with John Bartram.

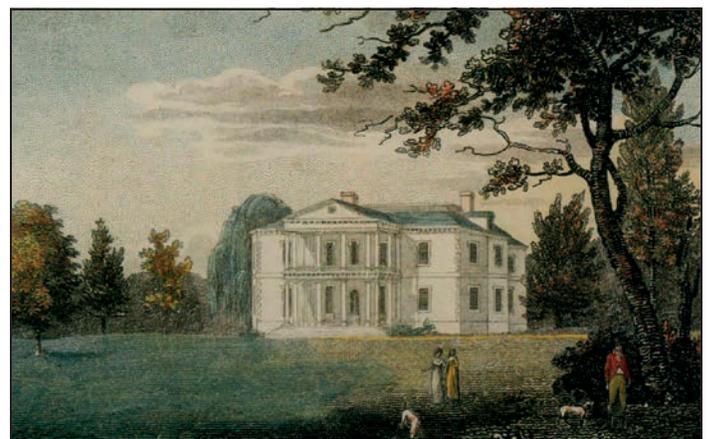
"Landscape" is the heading of a short account in which the authors treat the features and fabric of Philadel-

phia's rural estates, noting in particular the appeal of vistas, and the use of terracing, hedges, walls, fences, paths, summerhouses, herbaceous and woody plantings, and statuary, on rare occasions, to enhance gardens and grounds. The paragraphs dealing with the gardens at Springettsbury, where Thomas Penn was supplied with plants by Peter Collinson, at Stenton where William Logan excelled as a gardener and had a greenhouse, and by the Wisters at Grumblethorpe in Germantown whet one's determination to learn more. Orchards, vegetable gardens, agricultural fields, pastures, and meadows were necessary features of the working landscape and ornaments to estates in their own fashion. They feature in an excellent, longer essay, "The Working Landscape and Agriculture." The operations of William and Thomas Penn, at Pennsbury and Springettsbury, respectively, are cited as are the exemplary agricultural practices of Isaac Norris, senior and junior, who recorded their activities at Fairhill in a series of thirty-five surviving almanacs and other writings.

The authors provide short individual portraits of twenty-seven Philadelphia country houses, a group that is arguably the most important of the larger number that is known to have existed and for which significant documentation survives. These accounts are treated in a series of essays, also of chapter length, that are arranged both chrono-



The best surviving image of Thomas Penn's country seat, Springettsbury (1737). From plate also showing Loganian Library, artist unknown, LCP.

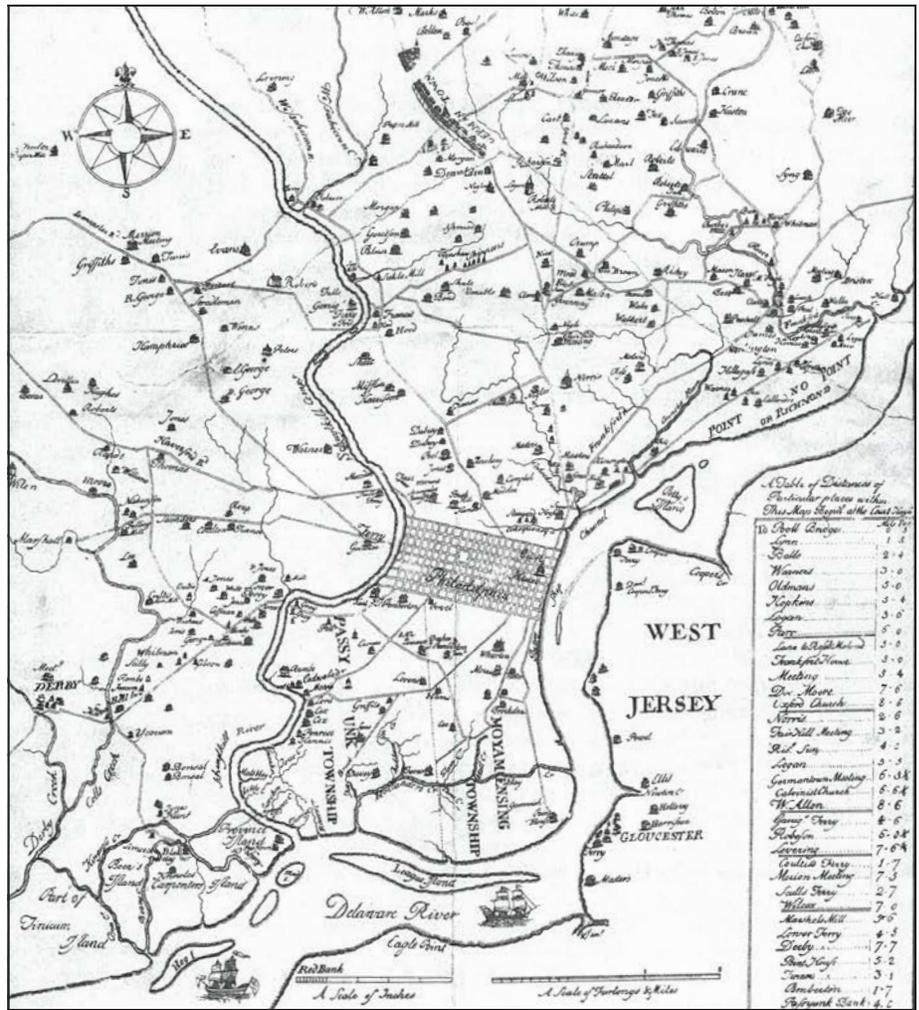


Lansdowne (1772). From William Birch, *Country Seats of the United States of North America* (Philadelphia, 1808), LCP.

logically and thematically in Part III, “Chronology of Houses and Style.” Their presentation opens with William Penn’s Pennsbury Manor and continues through time and place to conclude with Lansdowne, the country estate of his grandson, John Penn. Built in the early 1770s and lost to fire in 1854, Lansdowne is illustrated by the colored view William Birch produced for *The Country Seats of the United States of North America*.

Stenton, which the authors describe as “the first self-consciously classical building in Philadelphia,” also enjoys the distinction of having established the model for the “compact house” in Philadelphia. Built ca. 1723-1730 for William Logan, Stenton and its progeny are the subject of an expanded analysis in a chapter of their own. In Stenton we recognize the first of many center-hall, double-pile, hipped roof, brick Georgian houses, five or seven bays in width, with two full stories on a raised (basement) foundation and finished with a dormered attic/third-story level, that were built throughout the colonies in the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries and appeared again during the Colonial and Georgian revivals of the twentieth century. Mount Pleasant and Port

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Book Review..... (continued from page 9)

Royal were built to this model as was Cliveden, Benjamin Chew's great stone mansion at Germantown constructed of the local Wissahickon schist.

One comes to the end of *The Philadelphia Country House* appreciating, as the authors themselves conclude, that these rural estates indeed represent "A Life Worth Living." They embody an ideal that has held through our his-

tory as a nation and our efforts as a people to distinguish the places where we live.

Davyd Foard Hood, Book Review Editor
Isinglass
Vale, North Carolina

Flora Ann Bynum Medal Awarded to Two Outstanding Members

The Flora Ann Bynum Award is the highest award bestowed by the Southern Garden History Society. It is not awarded annually, but only occasionally to recipients who have rendered outstanding and continuing service to the Society, as exemplified for many years by Flora Ann herself. Past recipients are: Flora Ann Bynum (2005), Peggy Cornett (2008), Peter J. Hatch (2012); and Gail Griffin (2014).

At the 2016 SGHS annual meeting, the Flora Ann Bynum Medal was presented to two outstanding members of the Society: William C. (Bill) Welch of College Station, Texas, and J. Dean Norton of Mount Vernon, Virginia. Both Bill and Dean were completely surprised by the honor, which added to everyone's delight.

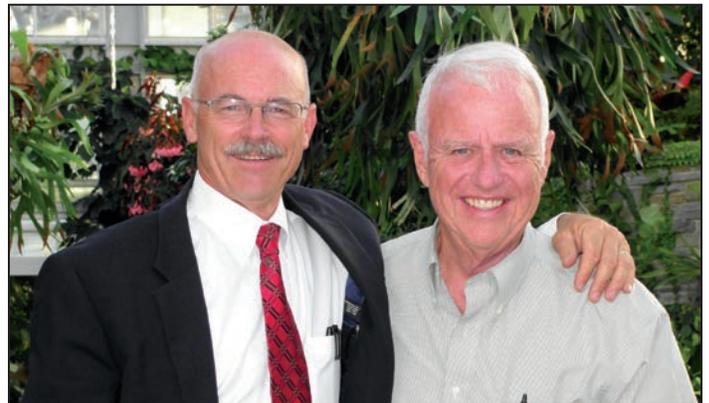
Greg Grant presented the award to his friend and mentor, Bill Welch, and gave an account of his lifetime of achievements and service as an educator, garden writer, extension service horticulturist, public speaker, and historic garden preservationist. A prolific author, Welch's most notable books include: *Perennial Garden Color* (1989); *Antique Roses for the South* (1990); *The Southern Heirloom Garden* (coauthored with Grant in 1995); *The Bountiful Flower Garden* (coauthored with Neil Odenwald in 2000); *Heirloom Gardening in the South* (with Grant, 2012), and *The Bulb Hunter* (with Chris Wiesinger in 2013). He again is collaborating on his most recent book, *The Rose Rustlers*, which will soon be published by Texas A&M Press. Through the sale of his books, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. raises funds to support two \$2,000 annual scholarships at Texas A&M University for landscape design and horticulture students.

Throughout his career, Welch has received numerous awards—from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Association of Nurserymen to the Texas Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of America, which recognized Bill with an honorary membership for his work to preserve our gardening heritage. Zone IX of the Garden Club of America presented him with their Distinguished Service Medal for his passion, knowledge, and unselfish contributions in the name of horticulture. He also received The American Horticulture Society's Great American

Gardeners Award for his accomplishments in gardening communications.

In the 1980s Welch was one of the founding members of the famed Texas Rose Rustlers and soon opened the Antique Rose Emporium with Michael Shoup. This venture changed the shape of gardening and retail nurseries in Texas and the South, popularizing the use of old fashioned roses, heirloom perennials, cottage gardening, period design, and antique garden art.

Despite his accomplishments and contributions to a host of other organizations, he has remained especially committed to the Society. A past president of the Southern Garden History Society (1996-98), Bill has also served



2016 Flora Ann Bynum Medal duo Dean Norton and Bill Welch.



Greg Grant honors his mentor Bill Welch with incoming SGHS president Susan Haltom.

on the board for numerous terms, beginning in 1988. He was an advisor and active coordinator for three highly successful annual SGHS meetings in Texas: Washington & Fayette Counties (1993), Houston (1999), and Fort Worth (2006). As an honorary board member (since 2010), and currently as active board member, Bill's passionate dedication to the Society's goals and mission is enduring and treasured.

Past president Staci Catron presented the Bynum Medal to Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at Historic Mount Vernon George Washington's Estate and Gardens, where he has worked since 1969. Norton was a Charter Member of the Society, established in 1982, and was the first State Editor for *Magnolia*, representing Virginia. Norton has been an active member of the Society since that time and served as the President of the Society from 2010 to 2012. He also skillfully orchestrated four annual meetings—those held at Mount Vernon in 1990, 2000, and 2010 and the meeting held in Richmond, Virginia in 2012. He continues to serve as a trusted advisor for the Society.

Like Welch, Norton has received numerous awards and recognitions over the course of his professional career, which began at Mount Vernon. These have included the Garden Club of America Award for Conservation (1994) and the GCA's Zone VII Horticultural Commendation (2013), the American Horticultural Societies Professional Award (2006), and honorary membership of the Garden Club of Virginia (2010), to name a few.

Catron's nomination for Norton praised him as "a vibrant, thoughtful, and important leader in the field of American horticulture. He is able to blend tradition and innovation successfully at one of our country's most significant historic sites, Mount Vernon. He revels in researching eighteenth-century gardening practices as well as the words and records of George Washington, but he also applies the latest plant science and management techniques to an awe-inspiring landscape."

Nominations for both Welch and Norton acknowledged their friendship and praised their role as mentors and ambassadors of the values important to Flora Ann Bynum and to the Southern Garden History Society.

Sally Gant and the Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes

By Martha B. Hartley, Director of Research and Outreach, Old Salem Museum and Gardens

Sally Gant retired this past December after her nearly forty-year career directing the educational programs at the Museum of Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in Old Salem, North Carolina. Headquartered at MESDA, the Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes (RSGL) began auspiciously in 1979 with Flora Ann Bynum leading the initiative. Since its beginning it was Sally Gant who quite literally made the conference run. Photographs are essential to any discussion of gardens, and in those days, that meant slide carousels. It so happened that Sally was the one at MESDA who could operate the auditorium's complicated AV system. This daunting set-up involved multiple slide projectors positioned on a shelf accessed by a ladder, a bank of light switches for various lighting levels and the screen, and other technical equipment. Sally's AV skills—as well as her many other talents—were immediately apparent, and Flora Ann soon asked her to join the Landscape Conference planning committee. Sally served on the committee from that time forward, and led the effort for the past ten years.

Flora Ann had established the important research-based landscape restoration program at Old Salem in 1972, and Sally recalls that Flora Ann believed Old Salem's gardens and landscape were to be shared through the conference and used as "a catalyst" and a place "to

learn the tricks of the trade." Flora Ann's efforts brought together professionals, scholars, amateur gardeners, and educators with a generous Southern hospitality during enjoyable dinners and cocktail hours. Under Flora Ann's tutelage, Sally became fully immersed in conference planning and facilitating, and her leadership has been purposeful in carrying on Flora Ann's ideals after her passing in 2006. In conference planning and presentation, Sally has remembered every detail with remarkable organization and has fulfilled her tasks with enthusiasm and good cheer. Sally noted that the conference "brings a very focused audience to the center point for Southern historic restoration" and that "she has loved it." The best part, she said, is the conviviality, a "gathering from all over. It's like a homecoming."

From the very beginning, Sally Gant has been making the Landscape Conference run, and through her expertise and hard work, she has carried out the excellence of Flora Ann's legacy. Fortunately for all of us, Sally will continue to serve on the Landscape Conference planning committee in her retirement.





Southern Garden History Society

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Awards and Scholarships

The **Flora Ann Bynum Award** is the highest award bestowed by the Southern Garden History Society. It is not awarded annually, but only occasionally to recipients who have rendered outstanding service to the society. Nominations may be made at any time by any member. The award will usually be presented at the annual meeting.

The title **Honorary Director** (Board of Directors) may be bestowed on individuals who have rendered exceptional service and made significant contributions to the society. Nominations for Honorary Director are made to the President by current Board members and are approved by the Board of Directors.

The **Certificate of Merit** is presented to a member or non-member, whose work has advanced the mission and goals of the society. Awarding of certificates will be approved by the Board of Directors and will usually be announced at the annual meeting.

Society **Scholarships** assist students in attending the society's annual meeting and are awarded to bona fide students enrolled in college and university majors relevant to the mission and goals of the society. The scholarship provides a waiver of registration fees plus \$500 to assist with travel and lodging.

Details, requirements, and directions for submitting applications are posted on the SGHS website: www.southerngardenhistory.org. For those without internet access, a copy of this document can be mailed or faxed. Contact Peggy Cornett, Magnolia editor.

Annual Membership Dues

The society's membership year is from **August 1—July 31**. The membership secretary will mail renewal notices in the summer for the 2015-2016 year. Membership categories:

Benefactor	\$500
Patron	\$250
Sustainer	\$125
Institution or Business	\$100
Joint	\$60
Individual	\$40
Student	\$15

For more membership information, contact:
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Memberships can now be made electronically on our website!
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