

# FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST

## Southern Garden History Society

36th Annual Meeting

JACKSONVILLE &  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA  
APRIL 13-15, 2018

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We welcome you to the cities of Jacksonville and St. Augustine, area of the first colonization by Europeans in what is now the continental United States. According to legend, in 1513 Juan Ponce de León was the first Spanish explorer to arrive in "La Florida" in his search for the mythical Fountain of Youth, and for more than two centuries the Spanish, French, and British fought for control of this desirable part of the New World along the St. Johns River.

We invite you to join us for lectures revealing our rich cultural history, tours of private gardens, an elegant dinner at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens (site of the Italian Garden, one of only a handful of extant gardens designed by Ellen Shilpman), and a trip to Glen St. Mary's, the oldest continuously operating nursery in Florida. The optional Sunday Tour will take us to St. Augustine, a city known for its many fine examples of Spanish Colonial architecture. Founded in 1565, St. Augustine offers us private tours of the Lightner Museum and the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum. Jacksonville also boasts the largest urban park system in the nation with more than 80,000 acres of parks. With its subtropical climate, historic neighborhoods, and stunning beaches and waterways, Jacksonville is a destination for anyone who loves gardens and history. Join us in the Sunshine State!

SOUTHERN  
GARDEN  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY



Southern Garden History Society  
PO Box 15753  
Winston-Salem, NC 27113

## Friday, April 13th

Registration in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront will be open from 9 am until 2 pm. Meeting and lectures begin at 12:30. Lunch will be on your own.

Noted local author and preservationist Dr. Wayne Wood will open our proceedings with an introduction to the history of Jacksonville.

Joel Fry, Curator of Bartram Gardens in Philadelphia, PA, will describe the native flora of the region as seen through the eyes of William Bartram. Bartram joined his father John in the exploration of the St. Johns River in 1766 and returned eight years later on his own.

Emily Liska, Executive Director of the Jacksonville Historical Society, will tell us about Harriet Beecher Stowe's winter home in Mandarin. Stowe first published articles about Florida in *Hearth and Home*, an agricultural and domestic weekly, and later in her travel guide and memoir *Palmetto Leaves* (1873). This book was one of the early guides written about Florida, and in the 1880s it stimulated Florida's first boom of tourism and residential development.

Dr. David S. Shields, Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina, is well known to SGHS members. His fascinating scholarship into Southern foodways includes the history of citrus growing in Florida, which he will share in an entertaining presentation.



We will board buses for dinner and a visit to Glen St. Mary's Nurseries, established in 1882 by George Lindley Taber, a Chicago trader who was given one year to live when he was sent to Florida for his health. Taber purchased a large, abandoned cotton plantation and established his nursery, still owned and operated by Taber descendants. Known for its eponymous azalea, this nursery was also a center for citrus production. Harold Hume, the author of numerous publications on fruit and nursery trees, served as general manager from 1917 to 1929. The families of 'Lin' Taber (III) and 'Tab' Taber (IV) will show us the original office filled with nursery ephemera and describe changes that have occurred over the years to this important family-owned nursery.

## Saturday, April 14th

Our second day is one of collaboration: for the first time at an annual meeting, SGHS will partner with The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, The Garden Conservancy, and the Library of American Landscape History. Morning lectures at the hotel will focus on resilience, recovery, & restoration after landscape disasters.



The Cummer has joined a consortium of public gardens in an effort to share information and other intellectual resources for recovery from recent Hurricanes Harvey, Matthew, and Irma. Gardens at The Cummer were designed by Oslan Cole Simonds (1903), Thomas Meehan (1910), Ellen Shipman (1931), and William Lyman Phillips of the Olmsted Brothers firm (1930s).

Bart Brechter, Curator of Gardens at Bayou Bend, Houston, TX, will lecture on historic azaleas. Since 2001 Brechter has made it his mission to locate Bayou Bend's lost azalea varieties, numbering one-third of the original plantings.

Bill Noble, well known garden designer and former Director of Preservation for the Garden Conservancy, will speak about his experiences with garden restoration, including recovery efforts at Longue Vue Gardens in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Marianne Salas, SGHS Annual Meeting organizer and National Chairman of the Garden Club of America's Garden History & Design Committee, will present recent GCA contributions to restoration of public gardens.

SGHS member and noted author Judith Tankard will tell the fascinating story of the Cummer Garden's restoration process and will introduce the new LALH publication, *Ellen Shipman and the American Garden*.

After a lunch at the headquarters of the Garden Club of Jacksonville (founded in the early 1920s by Ninah Cummer and others), we will board buses for tours of four private gardens in the Riverside neighborhood. The Cummer and the Garden Conservancy have collaborated with the SGHS in order to schedule garden tours to coincide with this annual meeting.

The day will end with cocktails and dinner on the banks of the beautiful St. Johns River at The Cummer, allowing for SGHS members to enjoy time with lecturers, experts, locals, and old friends.

## Sunday, April 15th

### Optional Tour of St. Augustine - LIMIT 135

We will board buses for the short ride south to historic St. Augustine. At the Lightner Museum (former Alcazar Hotel, built in 1888 by Henry Flagler, a founder of Standard Oil) we will have a guided tour of one of the country's foremost collections of 19th-century decorative arts. Brunch will be enjoyed at the Alcazar Cafe, in the "deep end" of the hotel's former swimming pool.

From the Lightner, we will take a short walk to the Spanish Military Hospital Museum and Apothecary Garden, then break into smaller groups for private tours and a garden talk at the historic Ximenez-Fatio House, once the grandest lodging in the Old City. The grounds and gardens have been the site of more than 15 archaeological excavations. We will return to the hotel lobby by 4 p.m.

## Registration

Registration for the 36th Annual Meeting is limited to 175 Southern Garden History Society members on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration is by mail only. Registrations will be accepted in postmark date order. Please, only two names per form; for additional forms or questions about registration, contact Virginia Hart, virginia.hart@southerngardenhistory.org.

The registration fee is \$395. This fee includes activities on Friday and Saturday, including lectures, transportation, tours, receptions and meals, as noted. An additional \$95 fee is required for the Sunday optional tour. Cancellations made by March 13 will be eligible for a full refund. Refunds for cancellations after March 13 will be determined by available funds after all conference expenses have been paid.

## Accommodations & Transportation

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront, 1201 Riverplace Boulevard, (904) 398-8800, will serve as our headquarters hotel for guests, programs, and tour departures. (NB: Not to be confused with the DoubleTree at the Jacksonville Airport.) The room rate is \$123 per night plus tax, with complimentary self-parking. To receive this block rate, identify you are with the Southern Garden History Society. Cutoff date for reservations is March 13, 2018.

Jacksonville Airport is approximately 10 miles north of the DoubleTree Riverside. Ground transportation is available from Gator City Taxi (904) 999-9999 or Super Shuttle (800) 258-3826.

## Contact

Meeting/Program: Marianne Salas, 2018 Meeting Chair  
(631) 921-5109 moliviasalas@gmail.com

Registration/Membership: Virginia Hart, Administrator  
(336) 770-6273 virginia.hart@southerngardenhistory.org

## A Day On Your Own

Visit the many other historic sites in St. Augustine, including Castillo de San Marcos (the oldest masonry fort in the U.S.), Fort Matanzas, and Flagler Tours at the former Ponce de Leon Hotel. Take a 30-minute drive northeast from Jacksonville to Kingsley Plantation and the historic Ribault Club in the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

Jacksonville's fine museums include the Museum of Science and History and the Museum of Contemporary Art. This weekend's local events include the 44th Riverside Avondale Preservation Home Tour. While in this neighborhood next to The Cummer, visit the Olmsted-designed Memorial Park.

## Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If vegetarian meals are required, check here:

If special assistance is required, check here:

Please print the name & affiliation or city you would like on your name tag:

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Affiliation/City) \_\_\_\_\_

## Remittance

Registration (\$395 per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Sunday tour (\$95 per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is by check only.

Make check payable to Southern Garden History Society

Mail Registration & Payment to:

S.G.H.S. PO Box 15752 Winston-Salem, NC 27113