21ST CONFERENCE ON
RESTORING SOUTHERN
GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

Gardening in a Golden Age
SOUTHERN GARDENS & LANDSCAPES
OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY AND THE
CHALLENGES TO THEIR PRESERVATION
September 21 – 23, 2017
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA
Thursday, September 21
Elbersen Fine Arts Center, Salem Academy and College, 500 E. Salem Avenue

SESSION I: PICTURING THE AMERICAN GARDEN

4:00 – 5:00 P.M. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
5:00 P.M. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Shirley Recital Hall, Elbersen Fine Arts Center
D. B. Lorrainne Sterrett, PhD, President, Salem Academy and College
Ann Johnston, Chair, Board of Trustees, Old Salem Museums & Gardens
Susan Halton, President, Southern Garden History Society
Allison Perkins, Associate Provost for Reynolds House Museum of American Art and Reynolds Gardens, Wake Forest University

5:30 P.M. THOMAS W. SEARS AT SALEM ACADEMY AND COLLEGE
Martha Hardey, Director of Research and Outreach, Restoration Division, Old Salem Museums & Gardens

5:45 P.M. INTRODUCTION OF MR. WATTERS
Daryll Fogg Hood, Independent Scholar
Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture:
PICTURING THE AMERICAN GARDEN: PHOTOGRAPHY AND RESTORATION WITH FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, 1900–1930
Sam Watters, Independent Scholar and author of Gardens for a Beautiful America, 1889–1935: Photographs by Frances Benjamin Johnston

6:45 P.M. RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING

7:30 P.M. DINNER
Inspired by a 1923 menu from Salem Academy and College
Rondahle–Gamble House, Salem Academy and College

Friday, September 22
James A. Gray, Jr. Auditorium, Old Salem Visitor Center, 900 Old Salem Road

SESSION II: EARLY TWENTIETH-CENTURY DESIGN

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & BOOK SALES
8:30 A.M. INTRODUCTIONS
Daryll Fogg Hood, Independent Scholar

8:40 A.M. "I HEAR MUCH TALK OF THE SOIL THESE DAYS": GARDEN ART AND WRITING IN AMERICA IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY
Virginia Grace Taitt, Associate Curator, National Gallery of Art, retired

9:35 A.M. SEEKING EDEN: EARLY TWENTIETH-CENTURY DESIGNED GARDENS IN GEORGIA
Staci Cotton, Director, Cherokee Garden Library, Atlanta History Center, and Mary Ann Eddys, Historic Preservationist

9:50 A.M. DAVID WILLLITON: NEGRO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AND SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION
Derek Spackseed Wilson, ASLA, NGMA, President, Landscape Contractors, Ltd.

10:20 A.M. BREAK AND BOOK SIGNINGS

10:30 A.M. INTRODUCTIONS
Phil Archer, Betty Main Babcock Director of Programs & Interpretation, Reynolds House Museum of American Art

11:00 A.M. FOUNDATIONS OF TWENTIETH-CENTURY LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN WINSTON-SALEM
Camilla Wilcox, Curator of Education, Reynolds Garden of Wake Forest University, retired

11:35 A.M. MRS. SHIPMAN COMES TO TOWN: THE WORK OF ELLEN BIDDLE SHIPMAN IN WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA
Laura Phillips, Architectural Historian

12:10 P.M. GREETINGS FROM THE TWIN CITY GARDEN CLUB

12:20 P.M. LUNCH AND BOOK SIGNINGS

SESSION III: WINSTON-SALEM’S GOLDEN AGE

1:15 P.M. AFTERNOON "TROLLEY" TOUR
Board trolley at Old Salem Visitor Center entrance for a tour of gardens and landscapes designed by Bucknam and Miller, Thomas W. Sears, Louis L. Miller, and Ellen Biddle Shipman.
Tour Guides: Sherold D. Hollingsworth, Garden Designer
Heather Freamsch, Architectural Historian, Freamsch History Services, Inc.
Margaret Staplee Smith, PhD, Harold W. Tribble Professor Emerita, Wake Forest University

5:30 P.M. ARRIVE BACK AT OLD SALEM

6:30 P.M. RECEPTION AND DINNER
Old Salem Visitor Center, 900 Old Salem Road
Old Salem Museums & Gardens in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has served as the setting for the biennial Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes since the conference was founded in 1979. The conference's mission is to promote and discuss historical horticulture, garden history, and landscape restoration in the Southern states, with topics of interest to both the professional and layman.

The 23rd Conference: Gardening in a Golden Age

Gardeners and garden historians alike look back on the early twentieth century as a "golden age," one of unprecedented garden-making in the United States, and an era whose unequaled. Men figured prominently in the period, marked by rising professionalism, expertise, and educational opportunities following on the organization of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899. But it was women, energized by shifts in cultural views and social roles, and the use of wealth, who seized the moment. Whether gardens making at home, launching important careers as garden and landscape designers, garden writers, or garden photographers, women excelled and were visible in the long roster of garden and shelter magazines launched in the opening years of the century. Women also gained stature through the rising tide of garden clubs, state-wide garden publications, and the sponsorship of garden tourism. Thus we have "Gardening in a Golden Age: Southern Gardens & Landscapes of the Early 20th Century and the Challenges to Their Preservation," the conference title, and the definition of our responsibility as stewards of a remarkable legacy.

Lectures by noted scholars will examine this period, including Sam Watton, Virginia Grace Titch, Staci Catron, Mary Ann Edey, Dreek Spurlock Wilson, Camilla Wilcox, and Laura Phillips. An afternoon tour will explore Winston-Salem's Golden Age, when the "Twin City" was the largest and wealthiest in North Carolina, and important landscape architects were commissioned to design estates, private gardens, subdivisions, institutional grounds, and municipal parks.

The conference is co-sponsored by Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Southern Garden History Society, and Reynolds House Museum of American Art.

The 23rd Conference is generously supported by:
Salisbury Academy and College - Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem - Twin City Garden Club
Chiefs' Mason Garden - Spade & Trowel Garden Club - JALA, Jeff Allen Landscape Architect, LLC
Institute of Classical Architecture & Art - North Carolina Chapter.