



# MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the  
Southern Garden  
History Society

*The Laurel Tree of Carolina  
from Mark Catesby 1731  
(Magnolia Grandiflora)*

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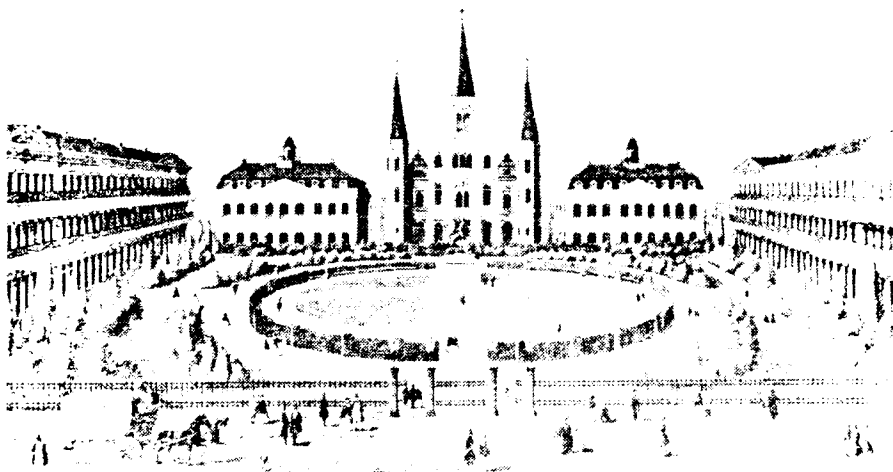
## JACKSON SQUARE: ABOUT FACE

by Ann Benham Koerner

Recognizing the importance of Jackson Square to the city's history and economy, the New Orleans Parkway and Park Commission and the New Orleans Town Gardeners, acting as a Parkway Partner, began last year a two-year cooperative venture to replant and otherwise enhance Jackson Square. The project, patterned after a highly successful effort rehabilitating New York's Central Park, place New Orleans in the vanguard of a national movement to recognize and restore important historic urban green spaces.

The New Orleans Town Gardeners, led by Committee Chairman Lulie McDonald, performed an inventory and analysis of the history, use, design, current appearance and restoration needs of every single inch and aspect of the Square. Research Chair and SGHS board member Shingo Woodward used the methodology of the Central Park Plan.

The Square is practically as old as the city itself. The configuration formed by the Square, the Cathedral, bordering structures, and the river reveals to a great degree the city's economy and its evolving social and political attitudes and needs. The ever-changing face of the Square has been synonymous with that of the city and its concerns: when defense



Louis Schwartz's 1850 view of Jackson Square

-- continued on page 3

## CALENDAR

April 12th-14th, 1991: SGHS 1991 Annual Meeting in St. Francisville, LA. For more details see "SGHS Board Meeting Highlights," page 8.

May 17th-19th, 1991: The Heritage Rose Foundation will hold their annual meeting in Santa Rosa, California. Contact Charles Walker, 1512 Gorman St., Raleigh, NC 27606.

October 3-5, 1991: A fall conference on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes," will be held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, NC. More information will be forthcoming in future issues.

March 20-22, 1992: SGHS 1992 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC. More information in "SGHS Board Meeting Highlights," page 8. Members may wish to start gathering up slides and prints of past meetings for the 10th anniversary retrospective display. See "Call for Archives" on page 16.

## OF INTEREST

Members of the SGHS are likely aware that as many as two-thirds of America's fine private gardens have been lost to the forces of nature and time. *The Garden Conservancy*, a project of the Tides Foundation, has been established to work closely with owners of private gardens and local and regional garden preservation groups to provide horticultural management skills, as well as the legal, financial, and the expertise necessary to transfer a garden to public ownership and ensure its continued existence and integrity. Write to *The Garden Conservancy*, Box 219, Main Street, Cold Spring, NY, 10516, or call (914) 265-2029 for more information.

Members interested in the *New England Garden History Society* can write c/o Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02115.

## MONTPELIER WILL RECEIVE GARDEN RESTORATION HELP

Funding has been designated by the Garden Club of Virginia to restore the gardens at Montpelier, home of fourth U.S. President James Madison, Father of the Constitution. The public is invited to watch the evolution as work progresses on the two-year project which began in October under the supervision of landscape architect Rudy Favretti.

"Once again we're going to restore a garden at the home of one of Virginia's presidents," said Favretti, "and it is very appropriate that we are doing it at the time of the bicentennial of the Constitution."

Little or no definitive information is available about the 18th-century four acre garden that may have incorporated part of the present one. The restoration will concentrate on establishing a typical early 20th-century garden using many of the plants salvaged from overgrown beds in 1988 as well as preserving the ancient boxwood lining the center walk.

Funds for the restoration come from Historic Garden Week, held annually in April, the oldest house and garden tour in the country. About \$4.5 million have been raised since 1929, monies the Garden Club of Virginia uses to restore 35 sites around the state.

Montpelier, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is located four miles from Orange, Virginia, near Charlottesville, and open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the restoration, garden clubs and other groups may arrange for specially conducted tours by writing Montpelier Garden Tour, P.O. Box 60, Montpelier Station, Virginia, 22957, or calling (703) 672-0012 Monday to Friday.

## JACKSON SQUARE, *continued from page 1.*

was primary, the use of the Square was military in nature; as commerce gained supremacy, stores and places of business replaced the barracks which once lined its sides. Sycamores planted in the early 19th century gave way to the plan of concentric walkways surrounding a central focal point sent from France by the Baroness Pontalba which enhanced her elegant apartments constructed in the 1850s and which remains intact today, though trees and plants have come and gone. All in all, the changes over the years, rather than having a detrimental effect on this quintessentially historic New Orleans site, have contributed instead to its vitality and authenticity.

After performing the preliminary inventory and analysis and after evaluation of the condition of the trees by the Parkway and Park Commission arborist, the Committee formulated objectives, which included removal of diseased and dying trees, replanting trees, repairs to the non-functioning sprinkler system, maintenance, and a funding plan. An ancillary, but by no means minor objective, intends the project to serve as a pilot program for restoring other city squares and to stimulate other public/private collaborative efforts in the city. The New Orleans Town Gardeners has participated in improvement projects around the city, including help with restoration of the Rose Garden at City Park, a teaching greenhouse at the Louisiana Nature and Science Center, plantings for Preservation Resource Center's Operation Comeback, and research and period replanting of three Vieux Carre courtyard gardens. As a Parkway Partner, the Town Gardeners also helped replant and maintain Lee Circle.

The final step of the joint planning effort for Jackson Square was formulation of a recommended master plan that assured a finished product consistent with the Committee's stated objectives. The master plan was committed to the spirit of the 1851 Pontalba Plan and utilized existing plantings wherever possible. It provided for removal of dead branches of mature oaks and magnolias along the fence line, replacement of trees and shrubs, and four seasonal color changes in the flower beds to be paid for by up to \$95,000 pledged by the New Orleans Town Gardeners. Repairs to the sprinkler system have been made through a \$10,000 grant from the Wisner Foundation, original donor of the system. Repairs are being made to the iron fence, erected in 1851, to be financed with a \$370,000 city bond issue. The master plan received approval of the Vieux Carre Commission and was presented to the public several weeks before actual work began.

Through the years, Jackson Square has been the very heart of the city. Through the efforts of the Parkway and Park Commission, the New Orleans Town Gardeners, and the many others who have given something of themselves to this project, it is showing renewed life and vitality. (reprinted from *Preservation in Print*, July 1990; photos courtesy of Historic New Orleans Collection, Museum/Research Center.)

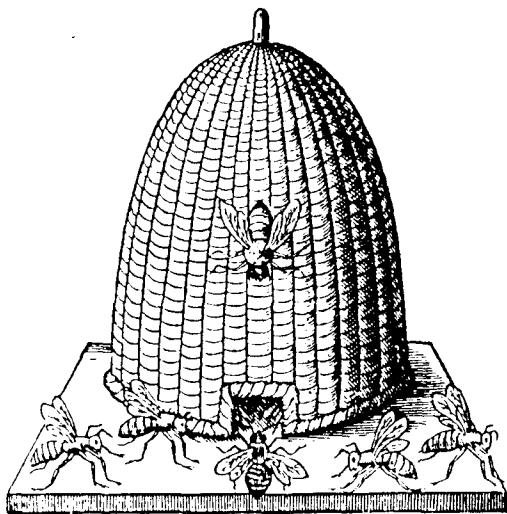


G.W. Sully's 1836 view of Place d'Armes' sycamore trees.

## HONEY IN THE HIVE:

### *Eighteenth Century Beekeeping in North Carolina*

by Susan K. Ferguson, Assistant Horticulturist, Tryon Palace Restoration



Straw skep

All winter and spring of 1990 I had bees on my mind. I had been asked to research eighteenth-century beekeeping in North Carolina for Tryon Palace's first Bee Day. Members of the North Carolina Beekeepers Association, meeting in New Bern for their annual symposium, joined the Palace staff in presenting special demonstrations and tours on March 17th. The beekeepers set up a hive of bees in our paddock, demonstrated the bee-lining method of tracking bees, displayed historic types of hives, and showed how to make skep hives and beeswax candles. Our guide staff explained domestic uses of honey and beeswax to our visitors to the kitchen wing, while the cooks baked honey-sweetened breads from eighteenth-century recipes.

There was a surprising amount of North Carolina documentary information, including estate and business inventories, shipping records, and tax acts that related to beekeeping. Governor Tryon had purchased beehives from the Moravians, and even had a military encounter with bees. Governor Dobbs not only kept bees at his home in Ireland but also wrote a paper about beekeeping. In November 1787 the dinner conversation at John Stanley's home in New Bern included a discussion of bee-lining.

Although records indicate that beekeeping was practiced early in North Carolina and other southern colonies, few descriptions of hives, hive shelters, or bee-yards are available. It is also difficult to determine the location of beehives on a property or in relationship to other outbuildings. Inventories may indicate beehives as part of an estate, but it is often not clear if hives were located on city lots or rural properties. For information about how hives looked and where they were located I sought out books and images from Europe and England.

Of the many books on beekeeping published in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Diderot's Encyclopedia article of 1760 on beekeeping provides the best illustration of hive types, as well as a variety of common bee management practices. The engraving depicts a bee-yard, or bee garden of the mid-1700s, with several different types of hives on benches or stools under a shelter. Beekeepers are shown capturing a swarm, "tanging" a flight of bees (beating on pots to produce a great noise, a practice believed to induce the bees to alight so they could be captured), and driving the bees into a new hive.

The hives are mostly of the wicker or straw conical type, familiar as the straw skep popular with cottage gardeners and interior decorators, or in the wooden box type, resembling birdhouses. The less commonly used pottery hives and a glass sided observation hive are also depicted. All the hives are open at the base and are without interior constructions. Support for the combs was provided by wedging sticks at angles into the interior of the skep or box; the bees constructed their combs around the sticks, which supported the weight of the stored honey and prevented the combs for the straw skep

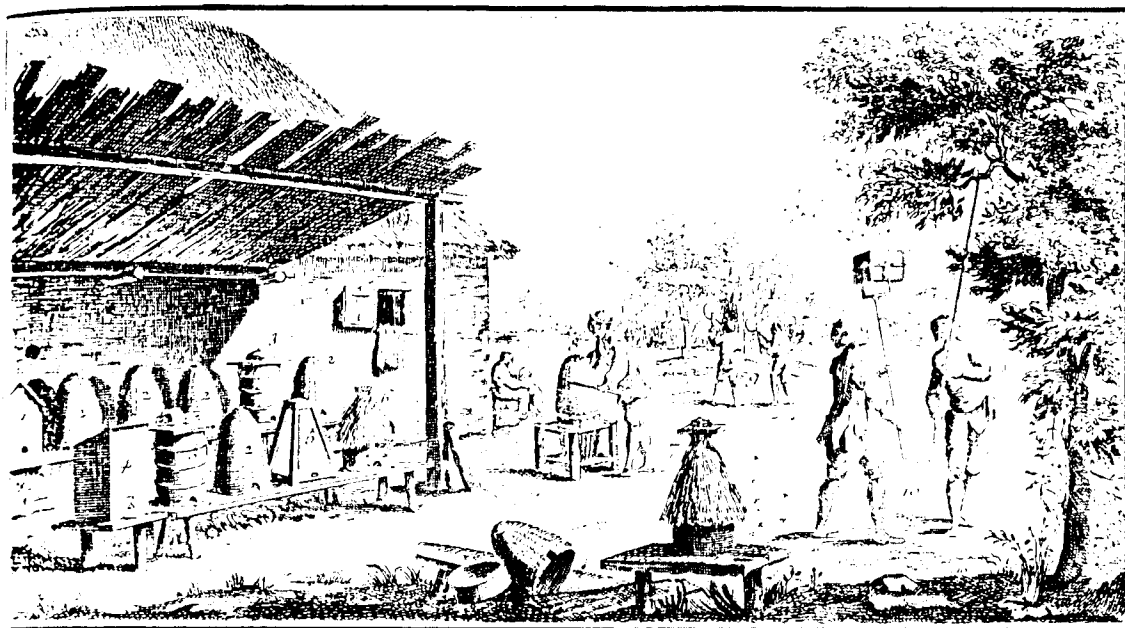
from collapsing. The bees built comb until the hive was filled, which induced swarming. The swarm were captured and placed in new hives, which were rubbed with herbs, bean tops, honey, or ale to encourage the bees to stay.

The individual skeps were protected with thatch covers called hackles. Box hives had board roofs, sometimes covered with green sod to keep the hive cool. The benches the hive sat on were known as stools, stands, or stalls. The hives on their stools were usually further protected in some kind of roofed shelter, sometimes near the wall of a building as shown, often in free standing shelters of one or two tiers. Occasionally larger estates in England constructed special stone buildings or walls with built-in niches for the hives.

The shelters with the hives stood in an area known as the bee garden, bee-yard, or bee-fold. This was a place away from heavy foot traffic and noise, sometimes near the kitchen garden, kept free of tall grass and weeds to forestall mice raids on the hives. Mice were a general problem and authors warned their readers to check regularly for mice between the hackle and the hive. The term bee garden seems to have been misunderstood by many garden historians. Although hives were sometimes set in ornamental gardens, or incorporated into the garden plan as a decorative feature or point of interest on a gentleman's estate (scientific beekeeping being one of the gentlemanly arts, like fruit growing and the cultivation of wine grapes), the common bee garden was, according to Samuel Johnson's dictionary, merely "a place to set hives in."

Harvesting the honey and beeswax usually required killing the bees. Sectional hives were not commonly used, although the scholarly authors repeatedly urged their use, and removable comb frame hives were not in practical use until the mid-nineteenth century. The usual method was to kill the bees by placing the hive over sulfur smoke. Protective clothing (thick leather gloves, heavy tunics and trousers, hats and veils) was in use by the middle ages or earlier.

Beeswax was an important commodity. It was used to make water resistant fabrics and yarns, including wax cloth for shrouds, bedticking, and marine supplies. The best candles were made of beeswax. Most candles for the church were, and often still are, required to be beeswax. In addition to polishes, the wax was used in printer's ink, sealing wax, cosmetics, ointments, grafting wax, and for decorative wax fruits and flowers.



Beekeeping, from Diderot's *Oeconomie rustique*, vol. 1, 1760.

Beeswax comes in various colors, from almost white to deep brown, but is usually ivory or yellow. Wax could be bleached by boiling or leaving in the sun. Once purified and cooled into blocks the wax was sold by weight. It was a fairly stable product and shipped well. Its value as a commodity is confirmed by laws permitting the payment of rents and taxes in wax.

Honey was the principal sweetener of foods until refined sugar replaced it in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Honey was the basis for several alcoholic beverages such as mead and metheglin, a spiced wine. There were many medicinal uses, particularly in salves, where its slightly acidic and mildly antiseptic properties were appreciated.

Beekeeping was introduced to the American continent quite early by the European settlers. The Spanish colonists may have brought honeybees to Florida well before hives were recorded in Virginia and New England. Beehives were sent to Virginia in 1620, along with seeds, fruit trees, pigeons, and peacocks; New England beekeepers enter public records in the 1640s. The honeybee thrived in the new environments and quickly escaped from domestication. Descriptions of Virginia published in London describe tame and wild bee colonies, and note, as Thomas Jefferson did a century later, that the honeybee was unknown in the New World until it was introduced by white settlers.

The first record of beekeeping in North Carolina seems to be a note in the Albemarle County court records of 1697. Sales and shipments of beeswax and honey appear in court records and shipping records regularly throughout the 1700s. The Moravians had bees in their settlements in the 1750s, and the community at Bethabara supplied Governor Tryon with six hives in 1767. In 1768 an act for the payment of quit rents to the Crown was passed and signed by Governor Tryon, which provided for the payment of taxes in beeswax and other goods. Beeswax was valued at one shilling a pound. The taxes raised by this act were to provide payment for the government soldiers needed "to suppress the late Insurrection of the Western Frontier." A few years later Governor Tryon would be defending himself from both insurgents and bees.

"The Army marched and crossed Abbets Creek, & encamped on Captain Merrill's plantation. A Valuable tract of Land and well cultivated... This Night a false alarm was given by an uncommon Incident. The Horses of the Army, upwards of one Hundred, were at pasture with Bells Round their Necks, in a field near to the Line of Encampment; and in an adjoining Garden were several Bee Hives some Soldiers taking a Fancy for Honey overturned the Hives about Midnight the Bees being thus disturbed & enraged dispersed themselves among the Horses in the Pasture stinging them to such a degree that they broke in one confused Squadron over the fence, and Came on full Gallop & in full chorus of Bells, up to the Camp. The out Centinels uninformed on the real Cause joined in the Signal of alarm; and the Cry through the Camp was 'stand to your Arms, stand to your Arms.'"

Journal of the Expedition against the Insurgents  
Correspondence of William Tryon, June 1, 1771

Beekeepers in North Carolina seem to have been almost exclusively white males. There is some evidence of independent bee-keeping and wild hive harvesting by the black population, which, if confirmed, would conform with bee practices by most cultures indigenous to continental Africa.

Most inventories record small numbers of hives, but occasionally stocks of 20 or more appear, which may indicate a large bee-yard on a farm property. Some individuals have only town lots, so it seems that beekeeping was sometimes an urban activity. From the John Henry Leinbach diaries of

1830-1843, we know that Mr. Leinbach kept bees in box hives in two double tiered shelters at the back of his Salem city lot.

The bee colonies fed themselves by natural foraging. They were not usually fed by the beekeeper except in winter to supplement a weak hive. Except for the herbs used for dressing new hives, plants were seldom cultivated exclusively for bees. Preferred trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants were recognized by beekeepers. Books encouraged settling new hives near orchards and meadows. Colonies usually took advantage of the existing plant mix without special crops being planted for them (the acreages required to fully support a hive are usually impractical anyway). If the environment was favorable, the bees responded with high honey and wax production, and new swarms.

The preferred native plants in North Carolina are: *Acer rubrum*, red maple; *Liriodendron tulipifera*, tulip tree; various *Ilex* species, the American hollies; *Oxydendron arboreum*, sourwood; *Robinia pseudoacacia*, black locust; *Rubus* species, blackberries and raspberries; *Solidago* species, goldenrods; *Aster* species, American starworts; *Monarda didyma*, bee balm; and native beans.

The introduced species most attractive to bees commonly found in North Carolina are: *Vitex agnus-castus*, chaste tree; *Tilia* species, linden and basswood trees; *Trifolium* species, meadow clovers; *Melilotus* species, sweet clovers; *Coronilla varia*, crown vetch; *Cleome serrulata*, yellow bee plant; and a variety of herbs, mints, field and garden beans, dandelions, and buckwheat.

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## SGHS BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Under the able leadership of Society President Harriet Jansma for the first time, the fall meeting of the SGHS board members convened in Atlanta, GA, October 12-14, 1990, at the Atlanta Historical Society's McElreath Hall. Topics on the agenda included a detailed report from Dean Norton (presented by board member Ed Shull) on the 1990 annual meeting held at Mount Vernon (see Magnolia Vol. VII, No. 1). In Shingo Woodward's absence, Bill Welch followed with an update on plans for the 1991 meeting to be held April 12-14 in St. Francisville, LA. Conference participants will stay at the St. Francis Hotel, approximately 30 miles north of Baton Rouge. The program will include talks by Bill Welch and Suzanne Turner, Both SGHS board members, Dr. Neil Odenwald of Louisiana State University, Mrs. Morrell F. Trimble, and others. Included on the itinerary are trips to Rosedown, Afton Villa, Hemingbough (Audubon Lakes), Maison Chenal, Parlange Plantation and Live Oak Plantation. The conference promises an in-depth look at the English influences in West Feliciana Parish and, crossing to the west bank of the Mississippi River, The French-Creole influences in Pointe Coupee Parish upon the gardens and rural landscapes of a very unique part of America. Registration packets will be mailed in early January 1991.

Initial planning is already underway for the 1992 meeting to be held, by unanimous board approval, in Charleston, SC, March 20-22. This meeting will mark the tenth anniversary of the SGHS and Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan, as conference coordinators, are organizing materials for a commemorative exhibit of past meetings and ask for your help (see "Call for Archives," p. 16). The meeting itself will include visits to Crowfield Gardens, Medway, Middleton Place, Drayton Hall and tours of Charleston's historic district.

The board meeting concluded with a tour of the Cherokee Garden Library, which is the repository for the SGHS archives. Recent acquisitions include a collection of early 20th-

century catalogues from Vestal's Nursery of Little Rock, AR, donated by the Arkansas Historical Association.

The publications committee met to discuss the Society's Magnolia Essay. Lucy Lawliss, landscape architect from Atlanta, submitted to the committee a substantial work on "Olmsted in Georgia: The Residential Work Accomplished by the Olmsted Firm, 1893-1937." The committee has worked closely with Ms. Lawliss to achieve an essay which will offer valuable information to the SGHS membership. Publication is due in early 1991.

On Sunday, board members visited three antebellum sites north of Atlanta: Barnsley Gardens, Valley View, and Rose Cottage. Steven Wheaton, gardens manager at Barnsley, escorted the group and provided a behind-the-scenes look at restoration efforts currently underway at Barnsley, site of the ruins of a once magnificent house and landscape. Rose Cottage, built by Rebecca Sproull in 1854, was shown by the current resident, Miss Dorris McCormick. A patterned boxwood garden and three rose bushes survive from the original plantings. The trip ended with a visit to Valley View, built by Rebecca Sproull's son, James Caldwell, in the late 1840s, which never left the family and retains a pre-Civil War atmosphere. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Norton hosted a luncheon there with the assistance of SGHS members Roy and Sue Mann.

The board is grateful to Anne and Julian Carr, Florence and Bill Griffin, and Jane Symmes for their careful planning and generous hospitality.



CHEROKEE ROSE  
Georgia State Flower



## NATIONAL TRUST GATHERS PRESERVATIONISTS IN CHARLESTON

by Kenneth M. McFarland

Held in Charleston, South Carolina, the 44th annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation offered much that was of interest and assistance to those concerned with the protection and conservation of our cultural landscapes. In fact, the event offered an educational "track" entitled "More than Structures: Preserving the Landscape." Beginning Thursday, October 18 and continuing through the following Saturday, this track encompassed an excellent variety of panel discussions and laboratory tours, as well as a wrap-up focus group session-- all of which examined an array of garden and landscape preservation issues.

One of the events which highlighted the meeting was an extremely well-received "Glorious Gardens" study tour led by the Society's own Mary Palmer Dargan. In addition, Hugh and Mary Palmer (Hugh Dargan Associates, Inc.) prepared a thirty-nine page booklet for tour participants which provided both layouts and concise descriptions of the numerous gardens visited. Their booklet also included a list of some of the plant materials used in Charleston as well as a section of plans of now lost early Charleston Gardens.

Well-known landscape architect Rudy Favretti provided another familiar face at the meeting. Rudy spoke on the general status of American landscape and garden preservation during Friday's Stewardship Luncheon. The same day he also offered a garden restoration slide talk to an overflow audience entitled "Gardens: Living Records of History." Joining Rudy were Sarah Lytle, of Middleton Place, who spoke on the famed Middleton Place gardens and the horrendous impact there of Hurricane Hugo; Lawrence Walker, of the Historic Charleston Foundation, who discussed the extensive garden ruins still surviving at nearby Crowfield Plantation, as well as efforts underway to protect this magnificent site from developmental pressures (a project to which Hugh Dargan Associates has devoted much time and energy); and Charleston

Museum archaeologist Martha Zierden, who examined extensive studies recently done on the gardens and grounds at Charleston's Miles Brewton house.

In addition to this discussion on the Brewton house, those following the landscape track had the chance to further their knowledge of Historic Charleston's archaeology by joining in a laboratory tour entitled "Archaeology in the Urban Context." Ms. Zierden, along with Dr. Bernard Herman of the University of Delaware and Dr. Elizabeth Reitz of the University of Georgia, provided new insights on the streets, structures, and courtyards of Charleston-- and the people who shaped, and were shaped, by this environment. Their talks concluded in a tour of the Joseph Manigault and Aiken-Rhett house sites, the latter offering its not-to-be-missed (unrestored) courtyard featuring a remarkable collection of slave quarters and domestic service buildings.

This examination of life in the environment of early Charleston, however, did not exclude another component of the historic landscape: the city's graveyards. The laboratory tour "Yesterday for Me, Today for Thee-- and Overview of Cemetery Preservation" commenced with talks on the artistry and iconography of Charleston grave markers and included an introduction to graveyard and gravestone conservation by Lynette Strangstad, author of A Graveyard Preservation Primer (AASLH, 1988). Afterwards, participants viewed conservation-in-action at several nearby cemeteries, including those at St. Philip's Episcopal Church and the Circular Congregational Church.

Beyond these fine presentations on the gardens and general cultural landscape of Charleston, the Trust's landscape track offered sessions addressing a variety of other pertinent issues. One such session focused on the compatibility of rural development and historic preservation, while another featured Samuel Stokes, of the National Park Service, and Patricia Jackson, of the Lower James River Association,

who scrutinized questions and protective techniques relating to the nation's scenic, often endangered, byways. Virginia's famed Route 5, running from Williamsburg to Richmond, was adduced as a case study of such a threatened roadway.

Protection of another byway--South Carolina's historic Ashley River Road-- together with the endangered settings of Drayton Hall and Middleton Place, was discussed by Middleton Place President Charles Duell in a presentation entitled "Protection of Context: Preservation Battles for Historic Properties." He was joined by Patricia Wilson of the D.C. Preservation League who reviewed efforts in Washington to expand the concept of structural preservation to encompass the settings of such structures. (Her talk included shocking photos of historic buildings abutted or enveloped by modern high-rise structures.) To Ms. Wilson's overview of urban landscape preservation was joined a talk by Michael Gore, Director of Belle Grove in Middletown, Virginia, on the effort to save a

crucially important rural landscape-- the Cedar Grove Battlefield which surrounds the Belle Grove mansion home.

Reading through this synopsis of landscape sessions (audio cassette tapes are available from the National Trust) should make clearly evident the burgeoning interest the subject, and its sub-fields, is engendering both in the South and across the nation. Perhaps above all, however, the Saturday "focus group" session revealed the degree to which preservationists from many backgrounds are seeking means, despite often immense obstacles, to save this nation's rich variety of historical, cultural landscapes. Society members will surely agree as to the long-term importance of the crusade on which they-- and we-- have embarked. (Editor's Note: Magnolia has received word that Chicora Foundation's Dr. William Trinkley has received funding for a survey which will attempt to find physical traces of garden structures at Crowfield Plantation, where a tree and topographic survey has just been completed.)

## NOTES FROM ENGLAND

by James C. Jordan, III

This past summer I traveled to England to research eighteenth-century kitchens and their gardens. Besides the customary house tours that were on my agenda, I visited the following sites and exhibits that will interest Magnolia readers.

Museum of Garden History. St. Mary at Lambeth, Lambeth Palace Road, London (directly across the river from the Houses of Parliament). The Museum of Garden History, part of the Tradescant Trust, has been housed, since 1983, in a former church next to Lambeth Palace. Displays of early gardening equipment, garden history, and botanical explorations are on the ground floor of the former church. The churchyard has been designed as a replica of a 17th-century garden, containing only plants grown by the Tradescants or of the period.

Ham House Kitchen Garden. Richmond near Kew Gardens in London. Ham House, operated by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London,

focuses on family life in the 1670s. Great attention to detail has been paid to the interiors, including the kitchen. Now curators are examining the gardens around the house. Of particular interest are the orchards and formal parterre planted with period plants.

"London's Pride: The Glorious History of the Capital's Garden." Special gardening exhibition at the Museum of London. A detailed survey of gardening in London from the Medieval period to the present day. This exhibit is richly displayed with documents, artifacts and plants of the period. A "must see" exhibit with a 210 page illustrated catalog.

*[Editor's note: Jai informs us that he is now doing a 30 minute living history interpretation of a late 18th-century gardener from Scotland working at Eden House on the Chowan River. He does "break role" to talk about gardening in the Albemarle region of North Carolina. For further details contact Jai at (919) 794-3140, or at Historic Hope Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 601, Windsor, NC 27983.]*

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The planting of eighty-six young trees along the western edge of the garden at Bacon's Castle made possible by a recent gift from Mrs. T. Eugene Worrell was reported by SGHS member and Bacon's Castle horticulturist **Darrell Spencer** in the APVA Newsletter, Vol. IX, No. 2, (Summer 1990). The new planting comprises nearly an acre of land and consists of a variety of both deciduous and evergreen species, which are native to Surry County. This corridor of trees will function as a visual backdrop for viewing the garden and an eventual windbreak and will also provide a habitat for wildlife and screen the view of any development taking place on adjacent property in coming years.

"Romantic Rebel," Rosemary Verey's article in Horticulture, October 1990, features SGHS member **Ryan Gainey**. This appreciation of his career and current activities also contains a detailed profile of his private garden. Also mentioned is Ryan's business partner and fellow SGHS member **Tom Woodham**.

The November/December issue of Fine Gardening (no.16), features an article by Mark Reeder, former garden director of the William

Paca Garden in Annapolis, MD. With Philip Miller's Gardener's Dictionary of 1730 as his guide, Reeder revived many practical gardening techniques from an earlier era, including the use of hot beds, bell jars, forcing pots, and wattle fencing. Sources for many of these difficult to locate items are included.

Landscape architect and SGHS member **Rudy Favretti** has contributed an article to Wildflower. Journal of the National Wildflower Research Center, (Vol. III, No. 1), entitled "Wild Garden in the City: The Eighteenth-Century Garden at Independence Hall," which describes the history of the grounds of Philadelphia's Independence Hall and the 1976 Bicentennial effort to restore the planting and includes lists of shrubs purchased from John Bartram, Jr., in 1786-87.

And on September 9th, 1990 reporter Patricia Taylor published in the gardening section of the New York Times an article on the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants and its director, SGHS member **John Fitzpatrick**. The article went out over the New York Times News Service and is currently running in papers nationwide.

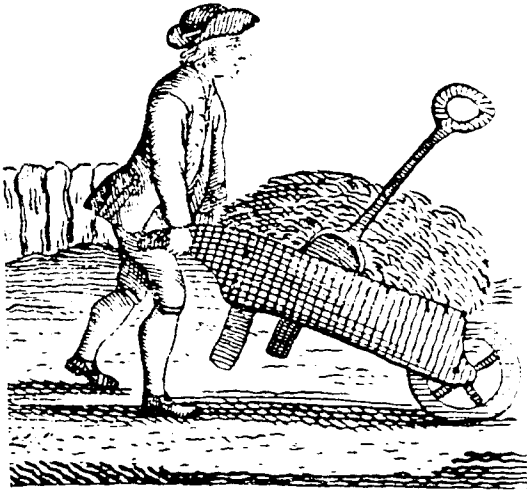
## SYMPOSIUM AT WAVE HILL

SGHS President, Harriet Jansma and secretary-treasurer, Flora Ann Bynum, will attend a symposium held November 16th by the Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill, Bronx, NY, of which the SGHS is a member of the advisory council. SGHS board member Catherine Howett also serves on the Catalog's advisory council.

The morning session of the symposium is devoted to a critical evaluation of the Catalog by the advisory council and the afternoon session, open to the public, will address the topic "Looking Ahead: American Landscape Preservation Studies in the Next Century-- Issues, Themes, Practice and Resources." Speakers will include J. Timothy Keller of Land and Community Associates; Elisabeth B. MacDougall, former director of Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks; Lauren Meier, ASLA, historical landscape architect, National Park Service; William H. Tischler, ASLA, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin.

The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States and its newsletter are projects of the American Garden and Landscape History Program at Wave Hill and this symposium is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## BOOK REVIEWS



*Gardner and Barrow*

"Eighteenth-Century Gardens of the Chesapeake." By Barbara Wells Sarudy. (*Journal of Garden History*, IX, 3, July-September, 1989. London, New York and Philadelphia: Taylor & Francis, 1989. Pp. 103-159. Appendix, editorial, notes.)

The publication of Barbara Wells Sarudy's five articles on "Eighteenth-Century Gardens of the Chesapeake" in the *Journal of Garden History* marks the appointment of the journal's editor, John Dixon Hunt, as Director of Studies in Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. It also marks the journal's change of focus- from literary essays on Old World landscape theory to a specific rendering of the American vernacular town garden; from the macro landscape of Humphrey Brown and Alexander Pope to the flower beds of William Faris, an Annapolis clockmaker and silversmith crazy about tulips. Sarudy's vividly concise essays, diligently founded on primary sources, clearly elevates the study of American gardens to an academic discipline worthy of the respect of social historians studying early material culture. The order we impose on our property- the yardscapes of fences, flower beds, and walkways- reflects the designs of our minds, the geometry of

our social patterns, and the pyramid of our economic order.

Sarudy, formerly Director of the Maryland Historical Society, presents the central issue as "The extent to which the early American gardens of the wealthy were influenced by the 'natural grounds' movement of eighteenth-century Britain." They weren't. Garden design in the eighteenth-century Chesapeake, as demonstrated by cartographic evidence, diaries, traveller's descriptions, and landscape paintings, reflected the logical order of the houses themselves and was based on the traditional parterres, classical terraces, and formal arrangements inspired by the Italian Renaissance.

Her first article, "Gardening books in eighteenth-century Maryland," suggests that, although works inspired by the informal, picturesque English landscape movement were available, Chesapeake colonists "were more drawn to ideas of both classical and later Italian Renaissance garden theory and design that evolved in European gardens as the colonies were being carved out of the great American wilderness." Next, Sarudy relates how commercial ventures by nurserymen and seed dealers in the late eighteenth-century resulted from the increasing wealth and leisure time of the urban middle class. She concludes that these shrewd merchants "were expanding their markets beyond traditional gardeners, who planted for sustenance, to clients who were enticed to plant for pleasure and status during their increased leisure time."

The third chapter details the emergence of commercial "pleasure gardens" in Baltimore. These combined the strolling pleasures of a public park with the sometimes raucous entertainments provided by the traditional European beer garden. "These commercial enterprises set the stage for the development of the free publicly planned and supported gardens and parks that the citizens of Baltimore would develop in the nineteenth century, and they also served as antecedents to the

commercial amusement theme parks of twentieth century America."

"A late-eighteenth century 'tour' of Baltimore gardens" reviews "seventy pleasure gardens," some from the city maps of cartographer Charles Varle and the engravings of Francis Shallus, others depicted in the landscape paintings of Francis Guy or described by travelers or in diaries. The pictorial dominance of formal, parterred garden beds, straight rows of trees, and symmetrical turfed terraces or "falls" projected the sense of order, control, and regularity that characterized the gardens of the Maryland gentry. Unfortunately, Sarudy implies that a formal garden- a garden with symmetrically balanced beds repeatedly exhibited in Warner and Hanna's plan of the city- was a pleasure garden of ornamentals. As she demonstrates, some of these were clearly flower gardens. However, most of the geometric beds, or garden "squares" as they were known to Chesapeake gardeners, were more likely kitchen and fruit gardens of strawberries, peach trees, cabbages, and peas.

Sarudy's last essay, "A Chesapeake craftsman's eighteenth-century garden," is the most revelatory and exciting of the lot. The 704 page diary of William Faris, an Annapolis craftsman and innkeeper, provides a new dimension to our study of early American gardens by recreating the horticultural world of a middle class artisan who bred and named tulips after Revolutionary generals and classical heroes. The formal pleasure gardens of the Chesapeake are no longer a vague and abstract figure on a map; they are brought to life with images of Faris' garden--box-lined parterres filled with asters, balsams, and anemones, circle beds of tuberose and hyacinths, holly trees shaped into sugar cones, garden walkways of crushed brick, sand, and oyster shells. Sarudy vividly recreates the pulse of Faris' gardenscape: a picket fence with a bright red wooden gate, simple statues, bee houses, a privy the silversmith called the "temple," a large vegetable "square" bordered with exact rows of well-trimmed sage and rosemary, nursery beds where Faris sold his surplus tulips to his neighbors, moveable half barrel plant containers,

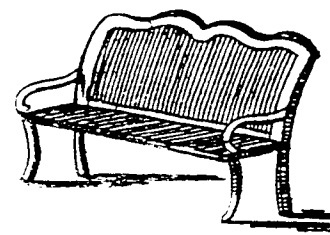
a separate fruit garden of apple trees, berries, and grape vines, water barrels, toolsheds, and a rabbit warren.

This is history brought to life. Sarudy herself suggests the implications extend beyond the world of academic historians. "For the past two decades, landscape architect Arthur A. Shurcliff has been criticized for creating elaborate town gardens at the homes of merchants and craftsmen for the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. This diary of an eighteenth-century artisan may help to quiet some of these tempests."

U. P. Hedrick's A History of Horticulture in America to 1860 (Oxford University Press: New York, 1950) revealed the scale and scope of American gardens in his general survey of the horizon of our horticultural landscape. Ann Leighton's eloquent trilogy on seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth century gardens (Early American Gardens [Houghton-Mifflin: Boston, 1970], American Gardens of the Eighteenth Century [Houghton-Mifflin: Boston, 1976], and American Gardens of the Nineteenth Century [Massachusetts: Amherst, 1987]) provided depth, literary color, and the socio-economic sources to our horticultural heritage. Sarudy's essays, particularly her unveiling of the garden world of William Faris, are also a landmark work. The use of primary sources to document and recreate the middle-class garden world of an Annapolis artisan, not the plantation garden of a wealthy slave-holder, provides a unique chapter in the study of our garden history. Barbara Wells Sarudy shows us how to do it.

(This issue of the Journal of Garden History may be purchased from The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, P.O. Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902 for \$ 14.95 plus \$2.00 postage)

--Peter Hatch, Director of Gardens & Grounds, Monticello.



*A Garden Chair*

The Chelsea Gardener: Philip Miller, 1691-1771 by Hazel Le Rougetel. Sagapress/Timber Press, Portland, OR. 1990. \$ 29.95.

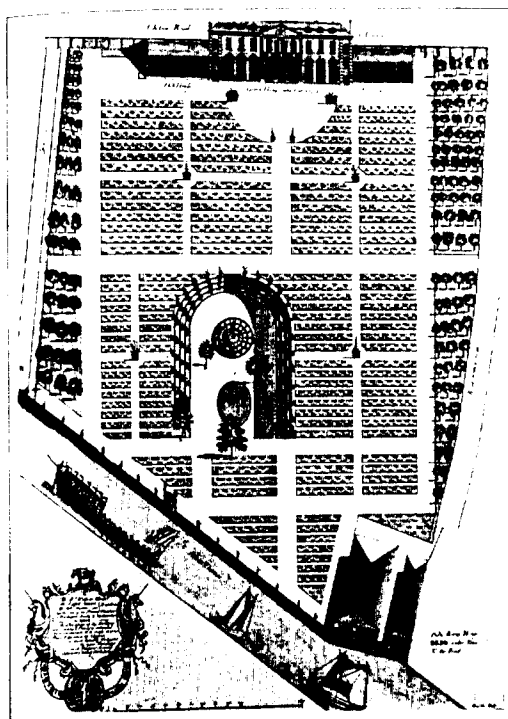
Because of his development of the botanical collection at the Physic Garden in Chelsea and his landmark publications, Philip Miller was a pivotal figure of eighteenth-century botany and gardening. His most important work was The Gardener's Dictionary, a common title in eighteenth-century American libraries. First published in 1724, it went through eight editions in Miller's lifetime, as well as publication in several languages other than English.

Based on what was clearly a tremendous amount of research, Hazel Le Rougetel recounts Miller's development of the Physic Garden, his publications and correspondents, the garden's benefactor (Sir Hans Sloane), Miller's contributions to the science of botany and the art of gardening, and, as far as possible, his personal life, about which not a great deal is known. Some of the more interesting subjects covered include a discussion of the roses described in

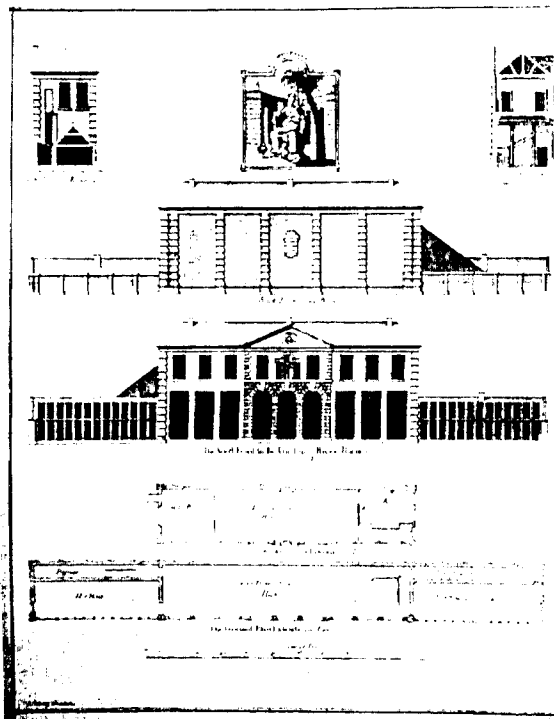
Miller's books, his correspondence and exchanges with John Bartram, and the controversial subject of his removal as manager of the Physic Garden in 1771. The concluding chapter, "The Botanical Importance of Philip Miller's Publications," by the taxonomic authority William T. Stern, is a thorough and illuminating account for the serious researcher, but is perhaps too detailed for the general reader.

The Chelsea Gardener is full of information about gardeners and botanists in the eighteenth century, in addition to providing a lively portrayal of one of the period's key figures. Unfortunately, the typeface used is not the easiest to read, but the book is attractively bound with sixteen color botanical plates and some ninety black-and-white images. There is a bibliography for each chapter and a good index, which includes plants mentioned in the text. Beyond the first quick reading, it is sure to become a valued addition to the reference shelf.

--John T. Fitzpatrick, Director of Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, Monticello.



*'Plan of ye intended improvements to be made in your Physic Garden at Chelsea'*  
c.1732, Edward Oakley, architect



## IN PRINT

Welch, William C. Antique Roses for the South. 200 full-color photographs. Southern gardeners will find SGHS member Bill Welch's new book filled with guidance for the planting, care and propagation of antique roses in our region, as well as many landscaping ideas and floral arrangements. Foreword by Neil Sperry.

Also of interest may be William Robert Prince's Prince's Manual of Roses, of which a reprint of the 1846 edition is available, and Robert Buist's The Rose Manual, of which a

reprint of the 1844 edition is available.

And note that American Cottage Gardens, Vol. 46, no. 1, Handbook #123 of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record contains: "Antique Plants for Modern Cottage Gardens" by SGHS member Arthur O. Tucker, "Antique Bulbs for Cottage Gardens" by SGHS member Scott G. Kunst, and "The Cottage Gardens of Texas" by SGHS member Dr. William C. Welch.

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## CALL FOR ARCHIVES

Tenth Anniversary Display of SGHS Meeting Records  
to be exhibited at the  
1992 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC.

Membership- Please send your special and funny slides or prints to the following members in order to make our tenth year retrospective program really enjoyable. We want clear photographs of group functions, sites visited and memorable events. Label your name and address clearly on each and they will be returned.

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2	1984	Natchez	Glenn Haltom
3	1985	Annapolis	St. Claire Wright
4	1986	Montgomery	Ed Givan
5	1987	Monticello	Peter Hatch
6	1988	Nashville	Libby and Ben Page
7	1989	Savannah	Mary Helen Ray
8	1990	Mount Vernon	Dean Norton
9	1991	Francisville	Shingo Woodward
10	1992	Charleston	Hugh and MP Dargan

### Spring Issue

Please send your articles and announcements to Kenneth McFarland, Stagville Center, P.O. Box 71217, Durham, NC 27711-1217 no later than February 1st.

Southern Garden History Society  
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