



MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

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

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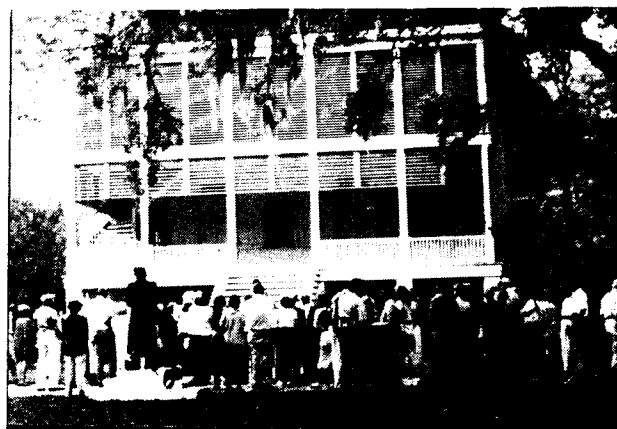
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THE GRACE AND GRANDEUR OF SOUTH LOUISIANA



Members congregate at Oakley Plantation

The ninth annual meeting of the SGHS gathered 125 members to St. Francisville, Louisiana, a remote and remarkable region of the South. Conference coordinators Betsy Crusel, Carole Pettit, and Sue Turner assembled a superb program of lectures and visits to noted sites offering a unique view of the southern Louisiana antebellum landscape. Along with the indispensable assistance of SGHS board member Shingo Woodward, the coordinators carefully selected the regions finest examples of gardens representing two distinct cultures: the English influence in the hilly regions of West Feliciana Parish and, crossing the Mississippi, the French "creole" style which dominated the flatlands of

Point Coupee Parish west of the river. South Louisiana is a place both wild and frightening, teeming with exotic subtropical flora and horrific fire-ant hills. Conference participants, captivated by the mysterious spell of this lush landscape, experienced the splendour of ancient live oaks draped with Spanish moss and thick with resurrection fern, of classical southern mansions built by nineteenth-century cotton barons and sugar planters, and of magnificent gardens, both intimate and grand.

The conference revealed and explored not only the uniqueness of this landscape, but also the rich resources available for research and documentation of early Louisiana gardens. Those intent upon

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CALENDAR

June 15th-20th, 1991: AHLFAM will hold its 1991 Conference and Annual Meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The conference topic will be "Defining Multiculturalism: Setting Our Sites" and those interested should contact Franz Klingender, Conference Chair, Historic Sites Service, 11th Flr., 10035-108 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3E1.

August 15th-17th, 1991: The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta will hold its 1991 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting at the William Paca Gardens in Annapolis, MD. Valencia Libby, Syd Knight, Darrell Spencer, and Tom Buchter will be giving talks. Registration fees are \$85 for members and \$105 for non-members. Write by August 2nd, William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401.

September 28th-29th, 1991: The Atlanta Historical Society and the Georgia Perennial Plant Association will host a symposium at the Atlanta History Center entitled "Refining the Garden: The Trowels and Pleasures of Gardening." Speakers will include SGHS members Brent Heath and Jane Symmes. Please call Susan Bezdek, horticulturist, at (404) 238-0654 for more information.

October 3rd-5th, 1991: The Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes fall conference on "The Southern Vernacular Landscape" will be held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, NC. (See article on p. 7)

October 11th-12th, 1991: The Southern Garden Symposium will hold a symposium and garden workshop in St. Francisville, LA. John Brookes, Jon Emerson, Mark J. Wenger, and Neil G. Odenwald will be featured speakers. Contact The Southern Garden Symposium, P.O. Box 1607, St. Francisville, LA, 70775 for information on registration.

October 31st-November 2nd, 1991: Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta will be held at Pinecote: Native Plant Center of the Crosby Arboretum in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The theme will be "Adapting to a Changing World" and those interested in attending should contact the Convener, Edward L. Blake, Jr., Crosby Arboretum Foundation, 3702 Hardy St, Hattiesburg, MS, 39762; (601) 261-3137.

March 4th-8th, 1992: The 1992 Atlanta Flower Show's theme will be "Sweet Land of Liberty ...Presidential Pathways." Contact Caroline Gilham,

Atlanta Flower Show Chairman/1992, 240 Peachtree St., Suite 240, Atlanta, GA, 30303. (404) 355-0245.

March 20th-22nd, 1992: SGHS 1992 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC. Members may wish to start gathering up slides and prints of past meetings for the 10th anniversary retrospective display.

OF INTEREST

Members may be interested in an article, "Principles for Preserving Historic Plant Materials" by Lauren Meier and Nora Mitchell, recently published in the National Park Service's Cultural Resource Management Bulletin, (vol. 13). The intent of the article is to begin to draw some general principles and give examples of good practice in the treatment of historic vegetation and has an extensive appendix of sources of additional information. A draft work plan to address the issues faced in managing the diverse cultural landscapes in the National Park Service is now available for study and comment from: Robert R. Page, Park Historic Architecture Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC, 20013-7127. The plan was developed during a fall Park Cultural Landscapes Workshop in Alexandria and covers topics such as funding for a National Historic Landmark Theme Study and for a manual to be used for assessing the impact of agricultural change on the historic scene of battlefields.

And travellers may wish to know about Gardens & Countrysides: A Journal of Picturesque Travels, a privately published newsletter reporting on travel to gardens and scenic countrysides which is published ten times each year by Travel Publications Inc., 401 Austin Highway, Suite 209, San Antonio, TX, 78209.

The Garden Library of the New Orleans Town Gardeners at the Southeastern Architectural Archive in Tulane University Library is available to patrons Monday through Friday, 8:30-5:00, and by appointment. A catalog of the collection is available through the Archive or the Town Gardeners. For further information, call or write: The Garden Library of the New Orleans Town Gardeners, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Tulane University Library, 7001 Freret St., New Orleans, LA 70118. (504) 865-5699.

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serious historic landscape restoration in both the public and private sector are truly blessed with a wealth of materials preserved in the archives and libraries of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, The Garden Library of the New Orleans Town Gardeners (at Tulane University), and the New Orleans Notarial Archives. The value of these early records and documents was evident in nearly every restored site visited or described in the lectures.

General Robert H. Barrow launched the conference with a historical overview of St. Francisville and West Feliciana Parish. Following his fascinating and often humorous sketch of the region's most colorful figures, Friday afternoon's program focused on the restoration of two private gardens. Maison Chenal, the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Holden, was the topic of the first presentation, given in tandem by the owners themselves. Working as a team, they have lovingly recreated around their reassembled dwelling a marvelous traditional French-creole garden based on eighteenth and nineteenth-century notarial documents. Their careful attention to detail and design is exemplary and likewise is their effort to locate and propagate plants from gardens in the region.

Genevieve Munson Trimble followed with a slide presentation on the development of the ruins of Afton Villa into an architectural garden. The gothic-tudor villa, built by David Bartholomew Barrow between 1849 and 1856, was destroyed by fire in 1963. Morrell and Genevieve Trimble purchased the estate in the early 1970s to rescue it from subdivision and, for more than a decade, have worked with Dr. Neil Odenwald of LSU to create an evocative and hauntingly beautiful garden on the foundations of the former dwelling. Our later visit to the site, where wisteria, phlox and wallflowers cover the rubble of former stairways and walls, offered us the opportunity to experience a "sense of peace and sense of place" that the Trimbles have tried to achieve.

The speakers on Saturday's schedule demonstrated the value of archival material from a scholastic point of view. Suzanne L. Turner and Dr. Neil G. Odenwald, both Louisiana State University professors, are well-known consultants for historic landscape preservation issues. An NEA grant currently funds Ms. Turner in her initial study of some 15,000 documents pertinent to Shadows-on-the-Teche, a 2½ acre site in New Iberia owned by the National Trust since 1958. Turner described her "work in progress" through which she ultimately hopes to develop a strategy for the restoration and eventual interpretation of this once 150 acre sugar plantation on the Bayou Teche. The site represents two important periods: the antebellum era revolving around the "sugar cycle" and the early twentieth century when the colorful and eccentric Weeks Hall occupied the house and designed a secret garden with walls of bamboo, creating the atmosphere for which the "Shadows" was known.

The outcome of her research will serve as a model determining the direction of this, and perhaps other related sites, and her progress will surely be updated in future issues of *Magnolia*.

Dr. Odenwald next drew upon his previous work at Rosedown, Afton Villa, and Longue Vue, an early twentieth-century garden in New Orleans, to illustrate the key factors involved in the restoration and management of historic properties. The variables he addressed included the mission of the garden (whether private or public), its ownership or governing body, the public's impact on the program, and the time or period of interpretation. Like Ms. Turner, Dr. Odenwald emphasized the importance of early records, receipts, letters, and diary accounts which bear remarkable resemblances to the day-to-day gardening issues of the present.

During the tour of Rosedown which followed, Dr. Odenwald led some members through the seventeenth-century French-style gardens, pointing out features of Martha Barrow Turnbull's original design. The upcoming publication of her garden journal will certainly be a fascinating and valuable resource for documentation of regional plant introductions, including azaleas, which Mrs. Turnbull grew by 1836.

Archivist Sally Kittredge Reeves' presentation on Louisiana's unique collection of Notarial Archives during lunch in the 1896 Jackson Hall parish



Suzanne Turner and General Barrow at Hemingbough.

house was well timed to follow the preceding lectures which highlighted this material. The deeds submitted into colonial Louisiana's public records often included detailed plans of creole houses and grounds, and Ms. Reeves described not only the content of this collection, but also conservation techniques currently employed to preserve the fragile documents.

Our schedule included time to wander through St. Francisville's Grace Episcopal Church and cemetery after Ms. Reeves' talk. The church, built by Charles Nevitt Gibbons in 1858, survived federal gunboat bombardment during the Civil War and stands today adjacent to its live oak-shrouded cemetery filled with intricate cast iron fencing and carpets of partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*) in bloom.

Our next journey, crossing the Mississippi by ferry, was perhaps the most significant adventure of the entire conference. For it was the process itself-- of waiting on the east bank, boarding on foot, and riding wind-whipped across the mile-wide waterway-- that enabled us to feel the full impact of this magnificent river as both thoroughfare and barrier. Indeed, the Mississippi remains a force of transport and inconvenience shaping the lives and cultural landscape of its people.

Once back on board the buses (which crossed by bridge in Baton Rouge), we first travelled to Parlange Plantation on the False River, created by an ox-bow of the Mississippi. The home, built in 1750, is still occupied by members of the Parlange family and considered one of the finest examples of French Colonial architecture in America. Galleries surround the cypress and brick structure with walls made of bousillage, a mixture of moss, mud, and deer hair. Two matching octagonal pigeonniers at the front of the plantation are now rare in the Louisiana landscape. Although Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Parlange, Jr., were in Texas receiving an award, SGHS members nevertheless felt the "lived-in" quality of the site.

The day concluded with a visit to Maison Chenal where members could admire first-hand the magic accomplished by the Holdens in their impeccable recreation. They have achieved a perfectly integrated setting which includes an authentic pasture and "yard" and a superb collection of early Louisiana furniture within the home. SGHS members such as William Welch shared their knowledge of plants by helping to identify many species, including old rose cultivars.

The meeting's final day began with Dr. William C. Welch's presentation on nineteenth-century roses found in southern gardens. On the topic of roses, Welch's breadth of knowledge is matched only by his enthusiasm. His talk included discussion of Thomas Affleck's Southern Nursery, an important early source for roses, which will be the topic of an article for the upcoming summer issue of *Magnolia*. [See also



Garden at Maison Chenal.



Indigofera, a wisteria-like groundcover seen at Rosedown and Oakley.

"Affleck on Hedging," p. 11]. Members are reminded that Bill Welch's latest book, Antique Roses for the South, is an excellent resource.

Our last destination was Oakley Plantation, an early Spanish-influenced dwelling known for its famous occupant, John James Audubon. The original owner, James Pirrie, hired Audubon to tutor his daughter Eliza and it was here that the painter created his finest illustrations of birds, including the wild turkey on display in the dining room. The park service's David Floyd led a very informative tour of the grounds and discussed future plans for the site's interpretation.

The meeting concluded with a noon brunch at the restored 1808 home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert S. Turner. The event was catered by Larry and Frances Smart whose fabulous creole cooking added that special touch of cajun spice and hospitality at Afton Villa and the Jackson Hall luncheon as well.

Although this excellent meeting highlighted the beauty of southern Louisiana, described by Audubon as a "happy land," members could not avoid the present realities of this land in peril. As one of the nation's most economically depressed regions, many of its finest historic sites are falling to the crush of developers and the plague of seething industries which already blight the corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans like strings of ominous cities. Dr. Odenwald alluded to a renaissance he perceives in recent trends toward documentation and archaeological programs developing at a number of River Road plantations. It is hoped these preservation efforts can save what remains of an extraordinary culture and vernacular landscape.

PLEASE NOTE

SGHS President Harriet Jansma presided over an early morning session with the annual meeting participants to share with them the board meeting highlights. President Jansma will provide a full summary of the board meeting in the summer issue of Magnolia, however, SGHS members should take special note of the following:

The development of an SGHS **PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE** is underway, thanks to the leadership of board member Ben Page. Members interested in contributing slides from past meetings to Ben are asked to include their name, date of slide, and subject matter on the slide if possible. Please include additional information in writing and send your slides to Ben G. Page, Jr., 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, TN 37205.

Mary Helen Ray of Savannah has consented to head a committee to develop a **PROCEDURES MANUAL** for annual meeting coordinators. This much-needed resource booklet will compile the crucial but often scattered material needed to organize these ever popular events. Mary Helen will especially need input from coordinators of past meetings. Please send any relevant information to Mrs. Mary Helen Ray, 130 East 44th St., Savannah, GA 31405.

THE PLANT REPORTER: FOLLOW-UP ON PINK ROMAN HYACINTHS

Flora Ann Bynum, Winston-Salem, NC

Many "sightings" of pink Roman hyacinths have been reported since our winter Magnolia. Florence Griffin, SGHS vice-president of Atlanta, GA, called me in mid-March to report that she and Bill Welch, board member of College Station, TX, had been doing some garden exploring in Georgia, following a talk Bill made in Atlanta. Bill spotted from the car double pink Roman hyacinths in a garden in Jefferson, GA. The garden's owners generously gave them three clumps of the hyacinths. The owner had obtained them from an older woman in a nursing home, who in turn had gotten them from her grandmother. Florence hopes that, in time, additional information can be learned from the woman in the nursing home. She and Bill are carefully nurturing the clumps they obtained. The garden owner told Bill that the pink likes lots of fertilizer and she divides and feeds them every three years.

A woman who runs a booth at our local farmer's market brought me one stalk of double pink Roman hyacinth, and a friend on an old homeplace near here brought both blooms and two clumps of double pink and promises more bulbs when the foliage dies down. Florence and Bill's hyacinths and the ones here seem identical, as best we can tell from comparing photographs. Also, Jane Symmes of Cedar lane Farm, Madison GA, reported that double pink Roman hyacinths, seemingly identical to Florence's, bloomed this spring in the garden next to her daughter's home in downtown Madison. So we now have the double pink in four locations, and in time we can grow them, pass the bulbs around to knowledgeable people, and study them carefully.

This double pink has a larger flower stalk and larger leaves than the single blue Roman Hyacinths so common to Southern gardens. At the April SGHS annual meeting in St. Francisville, Greg Grant said that in Louisiana he has found no double, but has seen a few single pink in two forms, one with a small stalk and one with a larger stalk. (Greg is working on his doctorate at Louisiana State University).

More "sightings" of pink Roman hyacinths were reported to me at the annual meeting. Prior to the meeting, James W. Corley, Jr., of Marietta, GA, sent me pages copied from an old book he thinks was his grandfather's Massey's Garden Book for the Southern States, copyright 1910, The Progressive Farmer Company. In a chapter on "Garden Work for October" the book says: "The white Roman hyacinths can be planted thickly in shallow boxes of soil and covered well outdoors till rooted. Brought into the house then, they will give lots of bloom for Christmas. Do not plant these outside till the middle of November." Jim brought to the annual meeting pictures of two plants of what seem to be single pink Roman hyacinths which bloomed among the blue in his garden in March.

Ed Shull, SGHS board member from Maryland, reported that he and Allan Brown of Charlottesville, VA, while visiting Long Hill in Salisbury, MD, in early March, found single pink Roman hyacinths coming up in the cemetery there, which dates 1800-1860. He said these single pink were small, smaller than the blue.

Mrs. Graydon Flowers, Sr., of Mattson, MS, at the annual meeting told me she had a few of the

white and pink in her garden, but mostly blue. Evelyn McGee (Patti) of Charleston, SC, said her mother remembered having lots of blue and some white and pink at her home in Marion, SC, and on a visit back this spring they found a few single pink and white.

The white, pink, and blue Roman hyacinth bulbs I ordered from commercial sources (Bundles of Bulbs in Maryland and Cruickshank's in Canada) and planted last fall all bloomed in late February up to mid-March, but none resembled the old Roman hyacinth. They looked to me like Dutch or garden hyacinth that had been grown in the garden for several years and "petered out." Even the foliage did not resemble Roman hyacinths; Bill Hunt stopped by my garden in late April and he commented on the foliage, rather cupped and pointed. Larry Gulley, of Sparta, GA, and John Fitzpatrick of Monticello grew the white Roman hyacinths advertised last fall by White Flower Farms, and they reported the same experience-these did not resemble the old. Larry has the old white in his garden so he could easily compare them.

However, Peggy Newcomb of Monticello this spring grew both white and blue Roman hyacinths from A.J. Skittone Collection in California and they were delicate and fragrant, like the old ones. Obviously we need to study further what these bulbs from commercial sources are.

So while we are making progress in locating the old pink Roman hyacinths of the South, we still have a long way to go, with many unanswered questions.

Old narcissus

Celia Jones of Sisters' Bulb Farm in Gibsland, LA, and I had a splendid time discussing old daffodils and jonquils at the SGHS annual meeting. Celia brought photographs and slides and gave us an informal program before one of our early morning meetings. One of the bulbs we shared information on was *Narcissus x intermedius*. I have two clumps of it in my garden, one from an old farm in eastern North Carolina, and the other from a local friend. Brent Heath of the Daffodil Mart in Gloucester, VA, had identified it for me but knew no common name. I thought it was rare, but in mid-March I saw it blooming all over Beaufort on the North Carolina coast and in Wilmington.

Celia said her grandmother called it "Texas

Star" and had grown it on her farm, now Celia's home, since at least the 1920s. Greg Grant joined our discussions. He said he had found *N. x intermedius* to be common in Louisiana and Texas but he knew no common name. Celia and Greg said it was a natural hybrid, a cross between *N. jonquilla* and *N. tazetta*. It is medium yellow with a deep yellow cup, petals more pointed than *N. jonquilla*, foliage somewhat larger. Celia said while *N. jonquilla* has to her a pure sweet smell, *N. x intermedius* has a somewhat musky, submerged, lingering aftersmell.

We also talked about *Narcissus x biflorus* and Celia had brought a large bouquet of these for the annual meeting registration table. She calls them "April Beauty" or "Twin Sisters," and Brent Heath

says they have been known as "Twin Sisters" in the South since colonial times. This bulb is noted in literature as Primrose Peerless Narcissus and is thought to be a natural hybrid between *N. poeticus* and *N. tazetta*. It is the last of the narcissus to bloom, with two white flowers per stem. Bill Hunt says these are the most vigorous of all narcissus, the most common all over the South, and will persist in places when all other bulbs disappear. Garry Stone, an archaeologist speaking at the 1980 landscape conference in Old Salem, showed slides of it growing at Clocker's Fancy Site, St. Andrews Creek, St. Mary's City, MD, a site abandoned in 1798 and in woods and field since. It is also growing around the old slave cabins at Horton Grove at The Stagville Center, Durham, NC.

**FROM COTTAGE GARDENS TO SLAVE QUARTERS:
OLD SALEM CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE VERNACULAR LANDSCAPE**
by Kenneth M. McFarland



The "Hauser House" stood at "Maine & Cemetery St." in Salem. The goat cart carrying Willie Cooper is pulled by Nellie and Tony. ca. 1885.

Historians will long be fascinated by such landscape features as the stylish parterre gardens of Annapolis and Thomas Jefferson's *ferme ornée* at Monticello. In addition, however, many scholars are studying the broader sweep of the cultural landscape which has bound the lives of millions of residents of the South. From Thursday, October 3 through Saturday, October 5 of 1991 the Old Salem "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" conference will probe that vast subject through a program entitled "The Southern Vernacular Landscape." There, conference registrants will examine how Southerners have manipulated their surroundings while acting under myriad influences of custom, hierarchical social relationships, changing demographic patterns,

and sheer necessity.

Dell Upton, one of America's most noted architectural historians, will open the conference with a talk entitled "Landscape and Imagination." Many Magnolia readers will be aware of his research which has provided intriguing perspectives on the eighteenth-century Virginia cultural landscape and the intricate web of social relationships it reflected. A discussion of this topic, which encompasses the interlocking worlds of planter, slave, and small farmer, will offer exactly the proper beginning demanded by the theme of the conference.

The presentations that follow the keynote talk will then represent that balance of analytical discussion and applied practice which we have come to expect from the Old Salem conference. For example, on Thursday the highly regarded student of old garden roses, Charles Walker, president of the Heritage Rose Foundation, will examine the wide-ranging appearance of roses in the Southern landscape. Roses have, of course, long adorned home sites ranging from the most humble cottage to the grandest of mansions. Then on Friday, Mr. Walker will conduct a workshop on the identification of old roses.

Trees, too form an inseparable element of our historic landscape, and that relationship will be emphasized in a panel discussion on Friday led by an always popular conference speaker, landscape architect Rudy Favretti. Mr. Favretti, whose restoration projects are legion, will be joined by Charles Duell of Charleston's Middleton Place and by Winston-Salem arborist David E. Lusk. Sadly, recent violent storms have made these gentlemen all-too-aware of the vicissitudes of tree management. Later, during the Friday afternoon workshops, Old Salem's horticulturist will offer a first-hand look at the trees of the Moravian village, while Mr. Favretti will address arboreal issues in a workshop on "Patterns for the Vernacular Home Landscape."



The Distiller's House at Bethabara (built in 1803), here ca. 1890, is still standing, although unrestored.

As we examine the vernacular landscape, few subjects offer more exciting possibilities than the Southern landscape shaped by African-Americans. The Friday morning schedule will thus offer presentations by three highly qualified students of the African-American landscape. To begin, elements of "Continuity and Change" in that landscape will be addressed by George McDaniel, director of Drayton Hall in Charleston. Dr. McDaniel's extensive research in several Southern states has led him to study both the antebellum and post-Civil war eras. Subsequently, Theresa Singleton of the Smithsonian Institution will offer further fascinating insights through her presentation "Hidden Landscapes: The Archaeology of African-American Life." Like the great majority of residents of the South, African-Americans have often left little written documentation regarding their physical surroundings, and thus archaeologists such as Ms. Singleton hold a vitally important key to expanding our knowledge of such subjects, for example, as slave family gardens. Finally, architectural historian Edward Chappell of Colonial Williamsburg will focus the issue on a familiar location as he examines the "Landscapes of Chesapeake Slavery," drawing on his research at Carter's Grove Plantation. Given the influences across the South of economic and cultural patterns first shaped in the Chesapeake region, Mr. Chappell's talk will be instructive no matter which area draws our interest.

While such presentations alone make the 1991 conference well worth attending, they will be joined by other talks certain to provide insights to students of the Southern landscape. The agricultural terrain, for example, will be discussed by Margaret Supplee Smith of Wake Forest University who will examine the relationship of Katherine Smith Reynolds and Reynolda Farm. On Saturday, in addition, Dan Freas, site manager at the nearby Horne Creek Living Historical Farm, will deliver a talk on the yeoman farmstead with his "Introduction to Methodology Used in Restoring a Farm Landscape." (An optional Saturday afternoon visit to the Horne Creek site will be available.)

Often, yeoman farms, as well as plantations, were the sites of Civil War battles. Michael Gore, executive director of Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia will examine that topic in his talk on "Civil War Battlefields as Vernacular Landscape." Mr. Gore, who is also president of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, is himself in the front line of the battlefield preservation movement. Kenneth McFarland, of Stagville Center, will then follow up on Mr. Gore's analysis with an overview of the Civil War Photographic record and its great potential as a documentary resource for historic landscape restoration projects.

Past participants in the Old Salem conferences will realize that even this summary does not include all that the event provides. In addition, those who attend will be offered guided tours of Old Salem's buildings, as well as the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts; an exhibit of old landscape photographs from the Salem area will be mounted by MESDA; several excellent meals will be provided; and the Thursday evening "Sharing Session" will offer insightful discussions of restoration projects occurring across the South.

A brochure on the 1991 conference, along with registration material, is being mailed to all Southern Garden History Society members. Please read it through, and if you have any questions call the conference registrar, Mrs. Jackie Beck, at (919) 721-7300. We look forward to seeing you in October at Old Salem. [Editor's Note: Due to recent funding cutbacks for this conference, the SGHS board has voted to help sponsor it. Photos courtesy of Sally Gant, MESDA.]

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Christy Snipes, SGHS member from Columbia, SC, was one of three South Carolina women featured in a month-long exhibit held during March at The Museum, Greenwood, SC, in celebration of women's history month. At the opening of the exhibit held March 2, Christy spoke on "Just What is Historic Landscaping?"

and her work as a historic landscape consultant was exhibited in the Second Floor Gallery of the museum.

SGHS board member and Nashville landscape architect *Ben Page*'s work on the renovation of the landscape at Ironwood, a historic estate outside of Bowling Green,

Kentucky, is featured in the Gardening column of the April 1991 Southern Accents. The estate, whose house was built in 1852 by Senator Joseph Roberts Underwood and his wife Elizabeth, has been recently restored to a working agricultural landscape by current owners David and Charlotte Garvin. The historic research on the landscape was based on letters written from Elizabeth Underwood to her husband while he was in Washington which described in detail the life of the gardens and workings of the estate. Because of the need to adapt the estate to the needs of a twentieth-century family, *Page* concentrated on giving the suggestion of the once extensive gardens by the use of a formal walled garden and to restore more distant views by thinning the canopies of the trees, as well as sculpting the land to form a ha-ha which hides the service road around the house.

Arthur O. Tucker, SGHS member and research professor, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Delaware State College at Dover received the Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor from the Herb Society of America. The medal, the highest honor awarded by the HSA, is given for outstanding contributions to HSA or horticulture.

The March 1991 issue of Horticulture has a lengthy and fascinating article, "A Library Rebounds" by E. Annie Proulx, on the great Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library and its head librarian, SGHS member *Walter Punch*, who is also the founder of the New England Garden History Society. SGHS members should write Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA (617) 536-9280 for information on visiting or becoming a member.

Darrell Spencer has been hired as director of the department of horticulture for Old Salem Incorporated in Winston-Salem. Darrell began April 17th, replacing Julianne Berckman who resigned last November. Before coming to Old Salem, Darrell was located in Surry, Virginia, as horticulturist for the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Darrell

was in charge of maintenance, interpretation, and development of the seventeenth-century garden and grounds at Bacon's Castle in Surry and he also worked in landscape planning with other APVA properties throughout Virginia. Darrell is a graduate of Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, and has a degree in landscape gardening from Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, NC. He worked for Old Salem as horticultural assistant for two years, 1984-1986, has been a horticultural intern at Monticello, and was an agricultural intern for a year at a historical farm museum in Michigan, assisting especially in research and interpretation of draft animals. At Old Salem, he will be in charge of maintaining and developing the re-created gardens and other landscape features and the educational interpretation of the landscape program to the public.

On March 10, 1991, at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of The American Society of Landscape Architects, held in Charleston, SC, Hugh Dargan Associates, Inc., received the Award of Merit in Design for the design of The Garden at 55 Church St., "The Benjamin Phillips House" in Charleston. *Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan*, ASLAs, received slide narrated comments at the Awards Banquet from jury chair, Laurie Olin, ASLA principal of Hanna/Olin, Philadelphia. Judge Olin stated "An Award of Merit ... means excellence ... in design, execution and content. It requires the recipient to have pushed the limits of his craft and methods..." The Garden at 55 Church St. was determined by the judges to be "... excellent in the cultural tradition of both city and region. ... A healthy extension of the conventions of the tradition, this garden is unselfconscious and confident, modest and well put together." *Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan* worked closely with the owners of 55 Church St. to quickly and effectively create a setting for the 1818 Benjamin Phillips House. Many of the thirty foot trees arrived by crane and walls were constructed of hand-made, antiques brick. Twin brick garden houses, reminiscent of

eighteenth-century privies, are coupled with the centerpiece sundial to provide the organizational element in the garden. The

sand-shell pathways are bordered by oversized old Charleston brick and outline planting beds containing aged heirloom camellia varieties.

IN PRINT

Martin, Peter. The Pleasure Gardens of Virginia: from Jamestown to Jefferson. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1991. 281 pp., 89 illustrations, 16 maps. \$29.95.

The Pleasure Gardens of Virginia is the first thorough study of gardening in colonial Virginia. Using a fascinating assortment of contemporary garden plans, paintings, prints and drawings, Martin reconstructs both the ornamental town gardens of Williamsburg and the pleasure gardens of plantation owners such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, William Byrd, and John Custis. In presenting accounts of their gardening efforts, Martin writes of the intricacies of colonial garden design, plant searches and experimentation, and

the difficulties of adapting European landscaping ideas to local soil and climate. Peter Martin was garden historian at Colonial Williamsburg and SGHS members may remember his talk in the 1982 program of "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" at Old Salem.

Spongberg, Stephen A. A Reunion of Trees. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990. 270 pp., \$35.00. Horticultural Taxonomist at the Arnold Arboretum, Spongberg interweaves tales of adventure, history, science and art in this volume about the discovery and introduction of trees and shrubs from other temperate parts of the world into European and North American gardens.

AFFLECK ON HEDGING

by Pam Puryear

The great star among Southern nurserymen was Thomas Affleck who was born in Scotland in 1812, and during the 1840s and '50s ran the famed Southern Nurseries of Natchez, Mississippi. He migrated to Texas in 1856, and re-established himself at "Glenblythe," his large plantation just north of Brenham.

In the 1830s and '40s there was a fashion for the improvement of Southern plantations with hedging. As timber for extensive "worm" fences was becoming scarcer, and they needed such constant replacement, living, flowering and/or thorny trees and shrubs were popular. As early as 1840, Bennet H. Barrow of "Highland" in West Feliciana hedged with Cherokee Rose (*Rosa laevigata*). It had been an early import from China via England into the American South, where it thrived; so much so that later settlers to Georgia and the Carolinas assumed it was native there and attributed it to the Indians. The very year Thomas Affleck moved to Natchez, the local editor wrote of local examples of Cherokee and Bois d'arc hedges, and further suggested the use of thorny honey locust, planted from seed. Evidently Affleck admired the local usage because he wrote on the subject in DeBow's Review in 1848. His later catalog offers pyracantha as well. In 1860, Affleck gave specific directions on how such a hedge should be set.

Another convention of the era was to throw up a ban like a ha-ha and plant *R. multiflora*, the Japanese Rose, atop it. Mary Austin Holley described this feature of her brother Henry Austin's plantation "Bolivar" near Columbus, Texas, in 1835. Another Barrow plantation in Feliciana was

named "Rosebank," perhaps commemorating a similar rose hedge planting there.

[If SGHS member have any other examples in mind, or know more of the sources of this fashion, please communicate them to Miss Pam Puryear, 708 Holland, Navasota, TX, 77868, or call (409) 825-3320. The summer issue of Magnolia will feature a lengthy article on Thomas Affleck and his Southern Nurseries.]

Notice

A new SGHS membership brochure has been printed and copies were distributed at the annual meeting in Louisiana. Anyone wishing extra copies of the brochure to have on hand to give to people interested in the society may obtain copies by dropping a postcard to the society headquarters in Old Salem. Individual memberships are \$15 annually. For more information write SGHS, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC, 27108.

Summer Issue

Please send your articles and announcements to Kenneth McFarland, Stagville Center, P.O. Box 71217, Durham, NC 27722-1217 no later than August 1st.

Southern Garden History Society
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