

Magnolia

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

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

Vol. X

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Summer 1994

"In Search of the Colonial Landscape" — Williamsburg Style

Certainly, the theme chosen for the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society belongs to the members of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation who are intimately involved with its restoration. For the better part of this century,



The Orlando Jones garden in Colonial Williamsburg. Photo courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Colonial Williamsburg has done more than any other restoration to shape and direct our notion of the early American landscape. Equally important is our effort, as a society of southern garden history, to participate in this quest. And yet, as trends, technologies, and current thinking evolve, our grasp of the true "Colonial Landscape" becomes more elusive. We learn that the Williamsburg of today is not the same Williamsburg of ten or twenty or fifty years ago. But, is it closer to that Williamsburg of the

eighteenth century? As director of museums at Colonial Williamsburg and conference chair Lawrence Henry pondered in his opening remarks, history itself is no longer a refuge from change.

By adopting a multifaceted approach, Colonial Williamsburg's talented staff of researchers and landscape professionals set about to

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Calendar

October 7th-8th, 1994. The annual Southern Garden Symposium will be held in St. Francisville, Louisiana at Grace Church's Jackson Hall, Afton Villa, Oakley, and Hemingbough. Speakers include SGHS members Felder Rushing from Mississippi, Mt. Vernon's horticulturist Dean Norton and internally renown Pamela Harper. Call (318) 635-3349.

October 21-22nd, 1994. Fall Gardening Symposium at Winedale. Contact Gloria Jaster, University of Texas Winedale Historical Center, P.O. Box 11, Round Top, TX 78954. Or call



(409) 278-3530, FAX (409) 278-3531.

April 21st-23rd, 1995. The thirteenth annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society. Under the direction of former SGHS president, Dr. Edgar Givhan, this meeting will examine historic gardens in the Mobile, Alabama area. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *Magnolia*.

October 5th-7th, 1995. The tenth biennial conference on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes," held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This year's conference theme will be "The Influence of Women on the Southern Landscape."

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demonstrate the underlying seriousness of their approach to this extremely complex issue. Their current treatment of the eighteenth-century landscape, which now presents a fuller view of the enslaved African Americans who dominated it, was experienced most convincingly at Carter's Grove. In the absence of twentieth-century intrusions — namely automobiles — first-person interpretation is immediately enhanced and expanded. There, for example, the juxtaposition of the private slave plot vs. the slave-tended



Kent Brinkley (left), landscape architect at Colonial Williamsburg, with Bill and Florence Griffin. Photo by Ken McFarland.

plantation kitchen garden can be seen, although the latter was not fully interpreted during our visit. Nonetheless, the entire atmosphere of Carter's Grove, especially at dusk, transcends the present, offering even the most critical a moment suspended in time.

On the other hand, Colonial Williamsburg has also embraced the once maligned label of "Colonial Revival" as its own. And, why not? No one can doubt the importance of these gardens so masterly designed by two giants in early twentieth-century landscape architecture, Arthur A. Shurcliff and Alden Hopkins. Their work has formed the enduring "Williamsburg Image" which will not soon vanish from our consciousness, nor should it. Now beyond the half-century mark, many of these gardens have aged with remarkable elegance despite the use and abuse of millions of visitors. By using these gardens as an opportunity for interpretation, Colonial Williamsburg becomes the epitome of a distinctly American early twentieth-century mind set that goes beyond style and design.

Reflected within the ranks of Colonial Williamsburg's professional staff lies another important recent trend in the workings of garden restoration: the emergence of educated and articulate professionals who also work as gardeners. In the case of Colonial Williamsburg, some even work as costumed interpreters or occasional garden guides within the historic district. Their insightful abilities create a new order in historic garden restoration. This trend was no

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Colonial Gardens: A Williamsburg Perspective

by Gordon W. Chappell, Director, Landscape and Facilities Services, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

[This paper was presented at the SGHS annual meeting.]

During much of the eighteenth-century, Williamsburg was the capital of the largest, wealthiest and most populous American colony, and the center of political and cultural life in Virginia. Due to its thoughtful city plan, Williamsburg did not grow in the same formless,



The Elkanah Deane Garden has been simplified from Shurcliff's 1930s design to accommodate current thought and increasing shade. All photos in this story courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

hodge-podge manner of the original colonial capital, Jamestown. Williamsburg was laid out around an axial, orderly grouping of public



buildings, each relating to the other in a grand scheme. Characterized by its broad, straight streets and its massive public buildings, the new capital had distinctly urban qualities. Its baroque-style vistas

pulled the public buildings into the landscape and the useful, public open-spaces reflected current European city planning trends. The gridiron town plan, conceived by Governor Francis Nicholson between 1699-1704, established large public greens, neighborhoods on the edge of town, and allotted at least a half acre of land to each town lot. Today, Nicholson's early eighteenth-century town plan is largely still intact.

During the first quarter of the eighteenth-century, the English were abandoning the formality of the Anglo-Dutch garden style and a trend toward naturalistic gardens was emerging.

A style featuring "natural" landscapes of sweeping lawns, clumps of trees, artificially-created lakes, diverted streams and manmade hills. While some of these features were contrived, they simulated the natural. The heyday of clipped hedges, ornate flower beds and straight lines in landscape design was quickly waning.

The trend toward a more natural landscape did not appeal to the settlers in Virginia, as reminders of the natural were all around them. To them, a garden was nature tamed, trimmed and enclosed within a fence or hedge. It was a demonstration of their ability to control nature and impose reason upon it. Also, nostalgia may have been at work. The colonists tended to create the gardens they remembered in England during the reign of William and Mary. Consequently this garden style persisted longer in America, where it had been adopted, than in England where it had evolved.

The real greening of Williamsburg began when Governor Alexander Spotswood arrived in the Virginia colony in 1710. Spotswood embarked on a path that would ultimately compromise his relationship with the House of Burgesses. Quickly, and with great expense, he began the process of crafting a sophisticated garden at the Governor's Palace, arguably for his own pleasure and sustenance. For Spotswood, gardens were synonymous with civilized and elegant living, and his garden designs were traditionally formal, geometric and well balanced. For elegance and extravagance,

nothing in the colony exceeded the Governor's gardens.

While few of Williamsburg's public buildings survived into the twentieth century, many homes and shops did, and have remained in use. Dr. William A. R. Goodwin, the rector of Bruton Parish church, was deeply interested in the city's past and, in 1926, fired the enthusiasm of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. who agreed to finance Dr. Goodwin's vision of returning Williamsburg to its eighteenth-century appearance.

From the beginning, Williamsburg's restorers appreciated the importance of reconstructing the gardens and greens, as well as the houses and shops. However, there was little physical evidence remaining of eighteenth-century gardens. Here and there were surviving bits of holly and boxwood hedges suggesting the evergreen framework of garden layouts. It was obvious that considerable research would be necessary to restore and recreate the landscapes of the colonial town. Information was gleaned from private and public collections of documents and garden books both in America and abroad. University and private research libraries were a source of much



valuable information. Archaeological excavations were conducted throughout the town for the purpose of locating house and outbuilding foundations, walls, walks, fences, and other garden features. In some cases, simple walkways were uncovered just beneath the surface that suggested the greater garden layout, including the garden's axis, and the probable size, shape, and alignment of garden planting beds.

Additional information about the arrangement of gardens and outbuildings was revealed through research into old tax records and insurance policies, which frequently included sketches of the layout of the lots. Descriptions of the city were occasionally mentioned in the travel accounts, letters, or journals of early visitors. Plant explorers and naturalists often kept detailed accounts of plants found growing in the area.

A number of eighteenth-century maps have been discovered that have also verified the layout and growth of the town. The most useful tool has been the so-called "Frenchman's Map," that was drawn by a French officer in 1782 after the victory at Yorktown for the purpose of billeting troops.

Beyond accurately showing streets and buildings, this document provides detailed information about fence lines and even suggests trees at some locations.

Important during the early days of the restoration was the work of the Foundation's first landscape architect, Arthur A. Shurcliff, a pivotal figure in the development of the discipline of landscape architecture in America. A resident of Boston, Shurcliff studied under Charles Elliot and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and had laid out the plans for Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. Shurcliff was an internationally known landscape architect and uniquely qualified to play an important role in



Giant Crested Cockscomb (Celosia cristata) in Deane Garden.

the restoration of Williamsburg and its gardens.

Shurcliff wrote that the re-created gardens were intended to “recall the period of the ancient dwellings and the old city itself.” He further noted that local landscape traditions differed from those of other regions, as did the plants. In his research into colonial garden design, Shurcliff realized the value of the Claude

Joseph Sauthier’s maps of North Carolina colonial towns and their gardens. Sauthier, a French landscape gardener noted that local landscape traditions differed from those of other regions, as did the plants. In his research into colonial garden design, Shurcliff realized the value of the Claude Joseph Sauthier’s maps of North Carolina colonial towns and their gardens. Sauthier, a French landscape

gardener who came to North Carolina in 1767, joined Governor William Tryon and surveyed and drew detailed maps for several of that colony’s towns. Sauthier’s plans included extremely accurate renderings of intricate garden layouts. The style and pattern of gardens recorded in these drawings have been used in many parts of today’s re-created Williamsburg gardens.

Shurcliff’s research included a careful, thorough study of southern plantation homes and gardens, and of colonial Virginia places in particular. Shurcliff examined nearly one hundred different colonial sites that, combined with a few documented surviving original garden designs, served as the precedents for the newly-designed Williamsburg gardens.

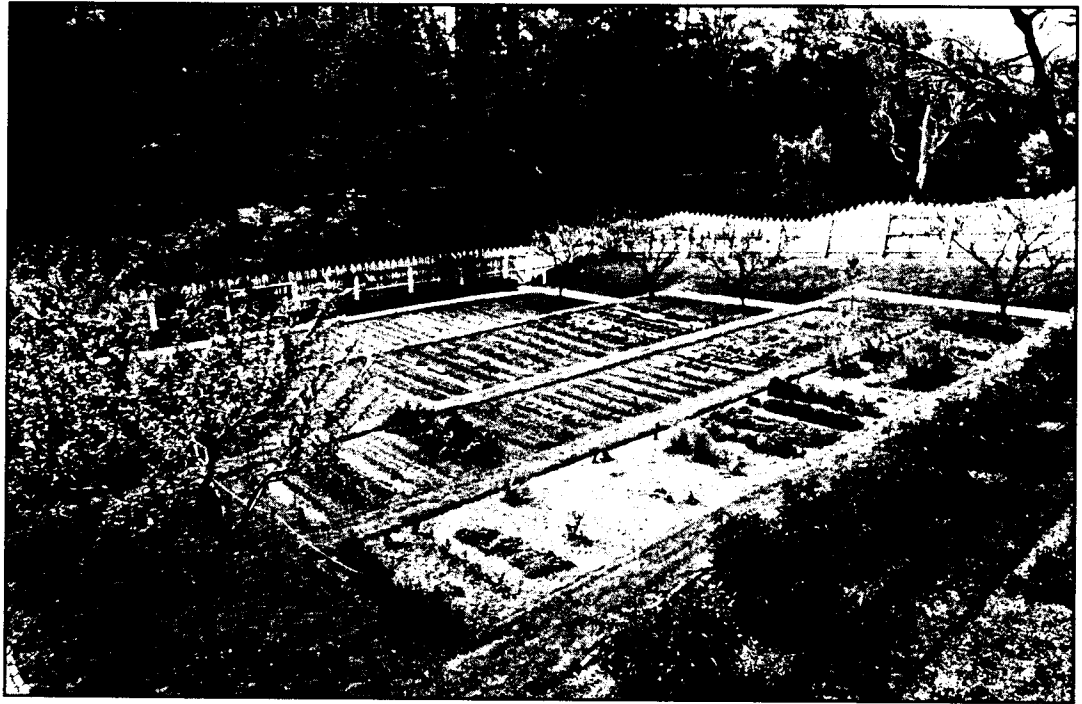
Research into the gardens of Williamsburg has been actively pursued since the earliest days and continues today. The research techniques of archaeologists, in particular, have changed dramatically. Newly rediscovered bits of information continue to surface, often resulting in



the reinterpretation of features of the town and its gardens.

When the restoration began, Williamsburg was primarily an architectural and curatorial restoration that emphasized “high style” in decorative arts and garden design.

There has been criticism that Williamsburg appears too neat and clean, too manicured. Today, because of ongoing research, more



The terraced Kitchen Gardens in the Governor’s Palace.

emphasis is placed on “living history,” to try to show how the colonists lived and worked as a community. Williamsburg today is much more than a shrine to the pretty things of the past. Colonial Williamsburg is a compromise between historical authenticity and common sense, between blunt realism and gentle nostalgia, between being a moment in time in the eighteenth-century and a moment in time in the twentieth-century. In recent years, our historians and curators have allowed the town to exhibit a more realistic appearance. Not every fence is painted every year. The Palace Green is no longer mowed like a golf course fairway, since in the eighteenth-century grazing sheep or cattle were allowed to roam freely and would keep the grass close-cropped.

Today, there are about a hundred gardens in the Historic Area that range in size from a tiny vegetable plot to the ten acres comprising the Governor’s Palace gardens. These gardens reflect the legacy of the early plantsman and today we

are obligated to nurture these colonial revival gardens we have inherited from our predecessors. These colonial revival gardens have become historical artifacts in their own right and they deserve our greatest care and respect. This period of colonial revivalism is now recognized as an important chapter in the preservation and garden history of America.

These gardens, designed by landscape architects Arthur Shurcliff, Alden Hopkins, Don Parker, and their successors at Colonial Williamsburg today, have been enormously influential on American garden design. There can be no doubt that they re-create the spirit and character of the finest eighteenth-century colonial America gardens.

Today we face a re-evaluation of many of these gardens: re-evaluations based on new research findings and techniques, and of course,



budgetary considerations. If we were designing these gardens today, we might decide to present them with greater simplicity than our predecessors. But these gardens are not only decorative, many are more than sixty-five years old.

Our educational mission suggests that we must go further in re-creating noteworthy examples of the early days. Where this is appropriate and documented, modifications may occur. In doing so, we can depict more realistically what current research says is authentically colonial, and what life may have been like for most colonial Virginians. As our lovely, evocative gardens grow older and more beautiful with the passage of time, their heritage and legacy become even more valuable and important ♣

SGHS Spring Board Meeting Report

by Flora Ann Bynum, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

New officers for the Southern Garden History Society were elected at the annual meeting held in Colonial Williamsburg on May 6th. Serving for a two-year term will be Benjamin G. (Ben) Page, Jr. of Nashville, Tennessee as president; Dr. William C. (Bill) Welch of College Station, Texas as vice-president; and Mrs. Zachary T. (Flora Ann) Bynum, Jr. of Winston-Salem, North Carolina continuing as secretary-treasurer. William Lanier (Bill) Hunt of Chapel Hill, North Carolina remains as honorary president. Three new board members were elected: Mrs. Cornelius C. (Betsy) Crusel, Jr. of New Orleans, Louisiana; Mrs. Robert H. (Louise) Gunn of Atlanta, Georgia; and Lawrence (Larry) Henry of Williamsburg, Virginia.

In accordance with new bylaws adopted by the society at its 1993 annual meeting in Texas, officers were elected by the board, and directors were elected by the society.

During the annual business meeting Dr. Welch praised outgoing president Mrs. William W. (Florence) Griffin of Atlanta, Georgia for major achievements during her term of office, including the revision of the bylaws and publication of the

first *Magnolia Essays*. Mrs. Griffin graciously received a standing ovation from society members and went on to conduct her final meeting as president with good humor and authority.

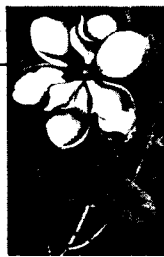
Highlights from the board of directors meeting included a report sent by Dr. Edgar G. Givhan, II of Montgomery, Alabama on the 1995 annual meeting in Mobile, scheduled for April 21st - 23rd. M. Edward Shull reported on the spring 1996 annual meeting to be held on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The board decided to look into the possibility of meetings in Florida and Asheville, North Carolina for 1997 and 1998.

Mrs. Griffin announced that Lucy Lawliss received an award of honor by the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for her authorship of *Magnolia Essays Number One*, "Residential Work of the Olmsted Firm in Georgia, 1893 - 1937." Copies of this publication are still available through the society and board members established a wholesale price for bulk orders from book dealers and other organizations.

The board discussed options for indexing

Magnolia in the near future as well as the possible publication of a journal of selected articles from past issues.

The rotation of board members went into effect following the Williamsburg meeting, as outlined by the new bylaws. Serving for a one-year term will be Mrs. Julian S. (Anne) Carr, Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia; Hugh G. Dargan of Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. T. Graydon (Judith) Flowers, Jr. of Dublin, Mississippi; and Dr. Givhan. Serving for a



two-year term will be Mrs. Robert B. (Glenn) Haltom of Natchez, Mississippi; Peter J. Hatch of Charlottesville, Virginia; Catherine M. Howett of Athens, Georgia;

and Ed Shull. Serving for a three-year term will be Mrs. John C. (Jane) Symmes of Madison, Georgia; Suzanne L. Turner of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Dr. Welch; and Mrs. E. Dameron (Shingo) Manard of New Orleans, Louisiana. These members are all eligible for re-election to the board after one year ♣

Rose Rustlers Strike Williamsburg

by William C. Welch, College Station, Texas

An unscheduled stop for several SGHS members attending the annual meeting in Colonial Williamsburg included the Dora Armistead garden on Duke of Gloucester Street. According to the present owner, Judge Robert T. Armistead, the home was built in 1890 on the foundations of a 1715 home where, it is said, George Washington



The magnificent 'Cramoisi Superieur'. Photo by Peggy Newcomb.

once slept. Dora Armistead was a noted gardener in her day and her nephew a botanist. Today, this

late Victorian structure, one of only a handful remaining in the historic district, has lost much of its original splendor, but the remnants of the garden retained some true gems.

Several roses throughout the property were in full bloom; one of which I consider to be a major find. For years I have searched for the climbing form of 'Cramoisi Superieur', a robust dark red China Rose. The bush form is frequently found on old home sites, cemeteries, and similar locations throughout the South. Although I have seen references to the climbing form, it has always eluded me — until now.

Quite often old roses are found at abandoned sites in less than ideal condition. This magnificent specimen, however, had been carefully trained to shade the large front porch of the house. Judge Armistead adds that this rose is so vigorous, it sometimes climbs well on to the roof of the porch, although a freeze of several years ago has cut it back. He speculates that Dora Armistead planted the shrub in the 1890s.

My first reference to this rose was in an article published in the *San Antonio Express* (September 2, 1934) and the *Dallas Morning News* (December 16, 1934) by Adina de Zavala. Miss de Zavala was chair of the Texas Centennial Commission and was encouraging Texans to plant roses to celebrate the state's upcoming centennial celebration in 1836. Adina related her memories of conversations with her grandmother, Emily

West de Zavala, and visits to her garden which dated to the early 1830s. Emily began her garden shortly after her husband Lorenzo returned to Texas from a stint as ambassador to France. He had also served as vice president for the newly formed Republic of Texas. While in France, Lorenzo reported receiving gifts



introduced the rose through his nursery.

Two early Texas nurseries also listed these roses: Gilbert Onderdonk's Mission Valley Nurseries in 1888 and William Watson's Rosedale Nurseries of Brenham in 1899. These two forms may be the same, both being climbing sports of the well known shrub 'Cramoisi Superieur'. In his book *Shrub Roses of Today*, first published in 1962, Graham Stuart Thomas wrote, "The climbing form 'Cramoisi Superieur Grimpante' is a magnificent plant for a sunny wall." In his catalogue of 1912, Tom Smith noted that he had "seen the whole front of a two story house completely covered with the Climbing Cramoisi," whose flowers "... are continually produced all the season through."

My excitement for this rose goes beyond its unique beauty. There are few truly red heirloom roses and even fewer climbers. Because China Roses usually rebloom profusely, it could be a very useful plant for period or modern gardens. It was not difficult to infect SGHS members Steve Wheaton, Peggy Newcomb, and Peter Schaar with my enthusiasm for this rose. Rumor has it that a few carefully selected cuttings may have left Colonial Williamsburg in the luggage of these members. (Rumor also has it that a few snippings might have made it back to Texas.)

The Armistead garden contained several other interesting roses. A specimen valiantly struggling to survive against a shady side porch might be 'Jeanne D'Arc', a pure white Noisette introduced in 1848 and noted for its intense fragrance and handsome red hips. An early Tea Rose growing off the end of the front porch may be 'Duchesse de Brabant' (1857), a creamy pink rose and a favorite of Teddy Roosevelt who frequently wore it in his lapel. Judge Armistead adds that this Tea Rose may have been moved from an earlier siting on the property and planted here in the 1930s. A nice specimen of the Chestnut Rose (*Rosa roxburghii*) arched over the fence in the back yard, and bordering a wooded area was a type of lovely, rosy-pink Gallica.

We hope those few cuttings of our red China succeed so that, in time, the climbing 'Cramoisi Superieur' will again become available to rose enthusiasts. Meanwhile, I would appreciate any additional information on this beautiful rose that may help to document its past +



This climbing China rose is one of the few truly red heirloom varieties. Photo by Peggy Newcomb.

of new China Roses to take back to his home in Texas.

Adina specifically mentioned the planting of a climbing form of 'Cramoisi Superieur' on one of the columns of the plantation house. Her recollections precede the actual introduction of this rose. Greg Grant's files on red China roses include two climbing forms of 'Cramoisi Superieur': 'Rev. James Sprunt' by Sprunt in 1858 and Climbing 'Cramoisi Superieur' by the Coutourier nursery of France in 1885. (Reverend Sprunt was a Presbyterian clergyman of Kenansville, North Carolina.) Peter Henderson, well known author and plantsman of the period,

Middleton Place Hosts Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation

by Ian Firth, Athens, Georgia

True to its heterogeneous nature, the annual meeting of the Alliance was an occasion for people from different disciplines and professions to ponder, admire, and argue over historic landscapes. Meeting for the first time in this part of the South, the conference (held May 18th through the 22nd) focused on this region's heritage, but otherwise eschewed any unitary theme. Instead, a diversity of issues and viewpoints were explored.

The meeting opened with an eloquent plea by Catherine Howett for a creative approach to interpretation of historic landscapes, and a warning of the dangers of a proscriptive approach to treatments. This led to a lively discussion on the merits of the draft "Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes" prepared by the Preservation Assistance Division of the National Park Service. The variety and complexity of historic resources here in the South were illustrated in a series of presentations. Richard Porcher inventoried the remains of the coastal rice plantations, and Dale Jaegar led a visit to the abandoned Tea Farm rice fields which are being incorporated into a new county park. Jim Cothran summarized his research on the historic district of



the city. Richard Westmacott described African American gardening traditions in rural South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, while Lucy Lawliss discussed the problems facing restoration efforts at the Martin

Luther King National Historic Site in the heart of Atlanta.

A similar diversity of interests and viewpoints was represented in our discussions. The concerns of trustees and administrators were outlined by Charles Duell at Middleton Place and George McDaniel at Drayton Hall. The satisfactions of archival discoveries were illustrated by Suzanne Turner with reference to her researches in Louisiana. The enthusiasm of stone conservators became apparent during visits to Charleston's cemeteries with Lynette Strangstad and Ken Shaw. Finally, the challenge of designing new gardens in eighteenth-century envelopes was the theme of the tour by Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan.

Often, the most memorable aspects of an annual meeting are those unexpected moments which open up new or different ways of seeing – the unfamiliar landscape becomes familiar and vice versa. This meeting offered many such moments. In particular, John Rashford's anthropological study of gardens in Jamaica, South Carolina, and Japan allowed us to see gardens from an entirely new perspective. And then, there was the setting itself. Staying at the Middleton Inn allowed conference participants to spend time in an historic landscape beyond the normal operating hours – to hear the early morning stirrings of life on the Ashley River and contemplate Middleton's butterfly ponds by moonlight †

In Search of the Colonial Landscape *Continued from page 2*

more evident that in the list of speakers and guides selected for this conference from within the landscaping team. Their talks provided not only nuts-and-bolts information but also philosophical analysis of approach as in Wesley Greene's "Garden Maintenance: Managing Change Through Time." Likewise, Terry Yemm's paper on early Virginia plant explorers revealed a depth of research undoubtedly pursued beyond normal working hours.

Garden restoration has increasingly become a

multi-disciplinary exercise as Kent Brinkley discussed in his layman's look at landscape archaeology. Through the Colonial Williamsburg experience we understand what can be irrevocably lost in any pursuit of history. But, more importantly, the Williamsburg of today also shows us ways of better meeting the opportunities and challenges ahead in all aspects of the historic landscape movement. Ultimately, Colonial Williamsburg remains an enduring and vital force in that movement †

Heritage Rose Enthusiasts Gather in Richmond

by Davyd Foard Hood, Vale, North Carolina

Fifteen members of the Southern Garden History Society were among the fifty-six who convened in Richmond, Virginia on May 19th - 22nd for the eighth-annual meeting of the Heritage Rose Foundation. Old rose enthusiasts from New York, Florida, Texas, California, and



Stephen C. Scanniello of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Charles A. Walker, Jr., president of the foundation, included a day of presentations, a day of visits to

three public and private gardens in the city, and concluded with a Sunday trip to Fredericksburg.

Jane White of Lynchburg opened the conference with a discussion on the renovation of poet Anne Spencer's garden in Lynchburg. The historic houses and gardens in the care of the National Trust were the subject of a travelogue with commentary by Kelly K. Sinclair, director of the Center for Historic Houses at the Trust. After lunch, Mr. Walker addressed the ever-perplexing problem of identifying old roses, taking as his cue and topic "What the Old Rose Literature Can Tell Us." A

workshop followed during which Mr. Walker and his colleagues examined and identified roses brought to the conference from near and far.

On Saturday morning, the group gathered in Hollywood Cemetery, in the shadow of monuments marking the graves of presidents James Monroe and John Tyler. Hollywood Cemetery, designed by John Notman and laid out in 1848, is one of the earliest and most important garden cemeteries in the South which followed on the example of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There, as is custom on foundation tours, roses were planted by members. In an organized, yet informal fashion, participants rambled through the cemetery identifying many old roses, planted over graves of the



Charles A. Walker, Jr., president of the Heritage Rose Foundation, points out the musk rose on the Crenshaw plot in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA, during the annual meeting of the foundation May 21st. Photo by Flora Ann Bynum.

other points made up the small but energetic band. The weekend's schedule, arranged by

dead in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, which continue to bloom season after

season.

Hollywood Cemetery is located on a bluff-like plateau overlooking the James River, and the river remained ever in view or thought for the remainder of the day. A box lunch was enjoyed in the gardens of Virginia House, the suburban estate of Ambassador Alexander Weddell in Windsor Farms. The house occupied a splendid site with commanding views to the James. Scott Burrell, estate manager, greeted the group and provided tours of the gardens and the country house which is maintained as a house museum by the Virginia Historical Society. Again, the traveling party followed custom and planted old roses in the garden designed for Alexander and Virginia Weddell by Charles Gillette.

Having traveled west from Hollywood Cemetery to Virginia House, the tour continued even further west, out River Road, and concluded at Redesdale, on the city's great exurban estates of the inter-war period. Charles and Anne Reed greeted the group on the steps of the handsome Georgian Revival mansion designed in 1925 by William Lawrence Bottomley for Mr. Reed's kinsman Leslie Hartwell Reed, a

prominent Richmond tobacconist. The spring gardens at Redesdale remained in their prime, in large part because of the unseasonably cool temperatures in April and early May. Tall delphiniums, lupines, poppies, and a host of blue, pink, and purple-hued flowers filled the



borders and beds of the garden adjoining the house and the walled garden to the west. The day ended with a buffet supper at the 2300 Club on Church Hill, a

nineteenth-century neighborhood which developed around St. John's Episcopal Church where Patrick Henry spoke his ever-famous words.

The annual meeting concluded on Sunday with a trip to Fredericksburg and a tour of Kenmore and its garden. Perhaps unintentionally, the sub-theme for this meeting might have been the work of Charles F. Gillette. Gillette (1886-1969), the first important landscape architect to develop a practice in early twentieth-century Richmond, was the designer of the original gardens at Virginia



Members of the Heritage Rose Foundation plant old roses in the burial plot of President James Monroe in the Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA, during the annual meeting of the Foundation in May. Photo courtesy of Flora Ann Bynum.

House and Redesdale. He also designed the twentieth-century setting of Kenmore whose Colonial Revival landscape was the first garden restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia ♣

Members in the News



The May issue of *Mid-Atlantic Country* magazine features a lengthy article by Susan Tamulevich on the pioneering work of Mid-Atlantic sites in the historic landscape preservation movement. Entitled "New Science for Old Gardens," the story examines a number of historic gardens, notably Old Salem, Dumbarton Oaks, Monticello, Poplar Forest, Carter's Grove, the William Paca Garden, and Mount Vernon. Numerous SGHS members are quoted throughout the piece, including: **Flora Ann Bynum** of Old Salem, **Peter Hatch** of Monticello, **Dean Norton** of Mount Vernon, and **John Fitzpatrick** of the Garden Conservancy.

Karen M. Laski's "Heirlooms of a Revolutionary" takes an in-depth look at Monticello's **Center for Historic Plants** in the April issue of the American Horticultural Society's publication *American Horticulturist*. The story includes a profile of **Peggy Newcomb**, director of the Center.

Garden journalist and SGHS member **Linda Askey** highlights two of our founding members in the May issue of *Southern Accents*. In-coming president **Ben Page** and his wife (and unofficial co-president) **Libby** are recognized for their contributions to the floral arrangements for the altar of Christ Church in Nashville, Tennessee. This magnificent Episcopal church received an architectural award from the Metropolitan Historical Commission for its recent restoration +

Deadline for submission of articles for the Fall Issue of Magnolia is August 1st, 1994.

Florence P. Griffin, *President*
Ben G. Page, Jr., *Vice-President*
Flora Ann Bynum, *Secretary-Treasurer*
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