

Tour of *Maison Chenal*, circa 1800 residence moved to its present site by Dr. & Mrs. Jack Holden. It is impeccably restored, even to its authentic pasture setting, and contains a fine collection of early Louisiana furniture. Of interest is the parterre garden demonstrating 18th century gardening methods and plants.

6:00 p.m. - Dinner,
OxBow Restaurant on False River.

8:00 p.m. - Departure by bus for St. Francis Hotel

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

8:30 a.m. - Continental Breakfast,
St. Francis Hotel.

9:00 a.m. - "Rediscovering the Fragrance, Beauty, and Easy Culture of the 19th-Century Roses Found in Southern Gardens," Dr. William C. Welch.

10:15 a.m. - Buses depart for Oakley (Audubon State Park). Begun in 1799 by Ruffin Gray, Oakley displays early Spanish influence in its raised basement, jalousied galleries, and outside stairs, so constructed to avoid the Spanish tax on interior stairs. James Pirrie, who wed Gray's widow, hired John J. Audubon to tutor their daughter, Eliza, thus insuring international fame for the region's beauty and abundant wildlife.

11:30 a.m. - Buses leave Oakley for Live Oak Plantation and a noon brunch. Live Oak is the restored home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert S. Turner. As a girl, Mrs. Turner acquired a painting of the house and dreamed of owning it. Now she does. The circa 1808 small plantation home, incorporating both French and English elements, is built with front and rear galleries on both floors connected by exterior stairs with a small hidden interior stair.

1:30 p.m. - Buses leave for St. Francis Hotel



AFION VILLA



ROSEDOWN



OAKLEY

REGISTRATION

Reservations are limited to members. Maximum number of participants: 125 members on a first come first serve basis. Registration forms must be received by April 1, 1991. Mail forms to:

Mrs. Robert L. Pettit, Jr.
#7 Garden Lane
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124
Phone: (504) 486-1188

Price of \$185.00 includes transportation to and from Baton Rouge Regional Airport and all lectures, tours, transportation, and meals on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

TRANSPORTATION

Those desiring transportation from and to the Baton Rouge Airport, please include flight arrival and departure times on registration form. All others may use car rental (available at airport) or taxi service (approximately \$40 from airport to St. Francisville).

St. Francisville is approximately 35 minutes by automobile from Baton Rouge.

ACCOMMODATIONS

St. Francis Hotel on the Lake (504) 635-3821.
P.O. Box 440
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775
Contact Hotel directly for reservations.
Room cost: \$47.30 single; \$52.80 double.

THE SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1982 as an outgrowth of a continuing series of conferences on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The purpose of the Society is to promote interest in Southern garden and landscape history, in historical horticulture, and in the preservation and restoration of historic gardens and landscapes in the South.

An annual meeting of the membership is held every spring to hear reports of research and projects of members, to visit gardens of importance in the vicinity, and to provide an opportunity for stimulating interchange of information and ideas among members.

A quarterly bulletin, *MAGNOLIA*, is published by the Society, and includes research papers, news of landscape restoration projects, and related member activities.

The Cherokee Garden Library in Atlanta, Georgia is the repository for books and documents of the Society.

Southern Garden History Society
Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

Annual Meeting

Southern Garden History Society

April 12-14, 1991

St. Francisville, Louisiana



"The Laurel Tree of Carolina"
by Mark Catesby, 1731

(MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA)

THE FLOWERING OF FELICIANA

GRACE AND GRANDEUR IN EARLY LOUISIANA

The Southern Garden History Society holds its Ninth Annual Meeting in the unique setting of St. Francisville, Louisiana, high on the bluffs above the Mississippi River. Here, in colonial Louisiana, are gardens in the French manner and in the Anglo-American tradition, both linked and separated by the great river highway which still forms the principal transportation artery of the central United States.

West of the Mississippi River, French colonial planters settled the rich flatlands of Pointe Coupee Parish "parish" is the Louisiana term for "county") between 1722 and 1760. Gardens in the traditional French colonial ("creole") style remained popular into the 1840's, although wealthy planters introduced design elements then current in Europe as the century progressed. Colonial Louisiana public records often included plans of houses and grounds to accompany deeds, and these "Notarial Archives," which continued into American statehood, are a rich source of information for plans and materials of creole gardens.

East of the river, English settlement after 1769 set the dominant cultural pattern in what is now West Feliciana Parish. The hilly terrain allowed great flexibility in garden design, resulting in the creation of large-scale gardens, or rather landscaped "parks," by cotton barons in the period 1820-1860, whose activities are recorded in journals and letters.

THE SPEAKERS

General Robert H. Barrow, U.S. Marine Corps, (Retired), 27th Commandant, (1979-1983), is a native of West Feliciana Parish and resides at Rosale Plantation.

Dr. & Mrs. Jack Holden have carefully restored Maison Chenal, built by Julien Poydras circa 1800. The Holdens, knowledgeable collectors and historians, have completely furnished the house which they moved from its original location and have also created a late 18th-century landscape.

Genevieve Munson Trimble, writer and lecturer, received the 1990 Preservationist of the Year Award, Louisiana Preservation Alliance, and the 1989 Patrons Award of the Society of Landscape Architects.

Suzanne L. Turner, SGHS Board Member, is an Associate Professor in the L.S.U. School of Architecture. She is also a consultant for the preservation of historic landscapes, has published many articles on landscape issues, and frequently lectures to landscape organizations.

Dr. Neil G. Odenwald, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, is the author of *Southern Plants*. He is consultant to Afton Villa, Rosedown, and in New Orleans, Longue Vue House and Gardens.

Sally Kittredge Reeves, Archivist, New Orleans Notarial Archives, is a graduate of Newcomb College and she received her M.A. in history with a specialty in archives and records management at the University of New Orleans. Sally is co-author of *Historic City Park of New Orleans*; of *Legacy of a Century, Academy of the Sacred Heart, and Grand Isle of the Gulf - An Early History*.

Dr. William C. Welch, SGHS Board Member is Extension Landscape Specialist in the Department of Horticulture Sciences at Texas A&M University, and author of *Antique Roses for the South and Perennial Garden Color*.

CONFERENCE COORDINATORS

Betsy (Mrs. Cornelius C., Jr.) Crusel

Carole (Mrs. Robert L., Jr.) Pettit

Sue (Mrs. Bert S.) Turner

THE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration, St. Francis Hotel Lobby, St. Francisville. In a rural setting, this small hotel is bordered on three sides by a lake. On view is a complete set of artist-naturalist John James Audubon's "Birds of America."

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Southern Garden History Society Board Meeting.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Board Luncheon

1:30 p.m. - **Welcome and opening remarks**, Shingo Woodward, SGHS Board Member and recipient, 1988 Garden Club of America Club Medal of Merit Award for establishment of the Garden Library of the New Orleans Town Gardeners, Tulane University.

"Overview of St. Francisville and West Feliciana Parish," General Robert H. Barrow.

"Our Louisiana Creole Garden at Maison Chenal," Dr. and Mrs. Jack Holden.

"The Joys of Preserving an Old Southern Garden - Afton Villa," Genevieve Munson Trimble.

4:00 p.m. - Buses depart from St. Francis Hotel for a landscape and garden tour of Afton Villa Gardens, featuring a winding mile-long oak alley, seven-terraced garden, family cemetery, and century old azaleas. The flamboyant Tudor-style house was spared destruction by Union troops during the Civil War because its ornate gothic entrance was mistaken for that of a cemetery. The house burned in 1963.

Refreshments served.

5:15 p.m. - Buses depart Afton Villa.

5:30 p.m. - Cocktails on the lovely landscaped grounds at Hemingbough, followed by dinner in its extensive facilities.

9:00 p.m. - Buses return to St. Francis Hotel

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

7:30 a.m. - Continental Breakfast, St. Francis Hotel.

8:00 a.m. - Annual Meeting, SGHS.
President Harriet Jansma presiding.

8:30 a.m. - **The Landscape at the Shadows-on-the-Teche: Two Centuries of Life on the Land.**
Suzanne L. Turner.

"Management of Gardens of Yesterday and Today,"
Dr. Neil G. Odenwald.

10:00 a.m. - Buses leave for nationally famous Rosedown House and Gardens. The 1835 house, built by Daniel Turnbull, depicts a lavish life of ante-bellum wealth and ease. The 17th century French-style gardens were designed by Mrs. Turnbull whose extensive horticulture records indicate that she introduced azaleas 1836. The garden is noted for its ancient trees and shrubbery, fountains and Italian statuary.

11:15 a.m. - Buses depart Rosedown for Jackson Hall and lunch. Jackson Hall, 1896 parish house for Grace Episcopal Church, also served as a community hall for operas and travelling theatricals.

11:30 a.m. - **"The Notarial Archives - Louisiana's Unique Civil Law Institution,"** Sally Kittredge Reeves.

Tour of Grace Episcopal Church and cemetery. The church was built in 1858 by Charles Nevitt Gibbons. Its cornerstone was laid by Leonidas Polk, the "Fighting Bishop of the Confederacy." During the war, federal gunboat bombardment was halted when the Church's rector, under a flag of truce, sent the message: "to fire upon God's House is unthinkable."

1:30 p.m. - Buses leave for Mississippi River ferry crossing to Pointe Coupee Parish.

2:30 p.m. - **Tour of Parlange Plantation**, long considered one of the finest examples of French Colonial architecture in America, with steep pitched roof, galleries on all four sides, raised basement of brick and upper storey of mud and moss-covered cypress, and octagonal pigeoniers, now rare. It has been occupied continually from the 18th century by members of the Parlange family.

