

2014 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

PRESERVING OUR COASTAL GARDEN HERITAGE: CAMELLIA CULTURE AND RICE PLANTATIONS

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, being held in Savannah, Georgia, from February 28 to March 2, 2014, is limited to 150 members. For membership information, contact: Virginia Hart at membership@southerngardenhistory.org

TRANSPORTATION:

Savannah Hilton Head International Airport is served by most of the major carriers. The airport is 11 miles from the Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel. Transportation to the Hilton Savannah Desoto can be on the K-Shuttle with advance reservations, (877 243-2050). Taxi Cab fare is \$28.00.

ACCOMODATIONS: Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel 15 East Liberty Street Savannah, 31401—**DEADLINE FOR GROUP RATE IS JANUARY 27th, 2014.** Group rate is \$169.00 a night (King size bed or 2 Double beds). Hilton Savannah Desoto Website: www.desotohilton.com Group code SGH
Phone reservations for **Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel:** 1-877-280-0751. Hotel parking \$18.00/ day. Street parking is free after 5:00pm Friday, and all weekend (Beware of street sweeper signs).

REGISTRATION:

All tours will require walking great distances at time on uneven terrain. Please wear sturdy comfortable shoes and all weather gear. Registration by check should be mailed to Southern Garden History Society P.O. Box 15752 Winston Salem, NC 27113. Or Online at www.southerngardenhistory.org/annualmeeting.html

NAME

COMPANY NAME OR INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

SPOUSE OR GUEST

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

If you prefer vegetarian meals: YES

REGISTRATION

Registration \$375.00 x _____ = _____

Sunday Optional Tour \$75.00 x _____ = _____

TOTAL _____

Deadline for refunds: January 31, 2014

ON YOUR OWN SUGGESTED SITES

Bonaventure Cemetery • Civil Rights Museum • Colonial Cemetery
Davenport House • Georgia State Railroad Museum and Roundhouse
Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace • Lural Grove Cemetery
Massie Educational Center • Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
Owens Thomas House • Savannah History Museum
• Savannah Wildlife Refuge • SCAD Museum
• Telfair Museum and Jepson Center



HISTORY

The Southern Garden History Society was founded in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in May 1982. The purpose of the society is to stimulate interest in Southern garden and landscape history, in historic horticulture, and in the preservation of historic gardens and landscapes in the South. Membership is open to any individual, family, corporation, or organization interested in the aims and purposes of the society. Current membership includes persons, institutions, and organizations from across the United States and several foreign countries.



For more information contact:
Southern Garden History Society
Post Office Box 15752
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27113
Telephone: 336-770-6723 Fax: 866-633-0206
Email: www.membership@southerngardenhistory.org
www.southerngardenhistory.org

Southern Garden History Society
Post Office Box 15752
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27113



Battersby-Hartridge Garden

MEET US FOR A SOJOURN IN SAVANNAH

32nd ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY



Preserving Our
Coastal Garden Heritage
Camellia Culture & Rice Plantations

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 2, 2014

Welcome to the beautiful and historic city of Savannah, Georgia and the surrounding low country plantations. This weekend offers a view of the city’s rich landscape history and remarkable preservation legacy, as well as a look at nearby prominent eighteenth and nineteenth-century plantations and gardens located along the Skidaway and Little Ogeechee Rivers, and the Georgia Coast. Join us and experience the gracious hospitality of the Lowcountry. Learn about the passionate and talented people who influenced the landscape and horticultural history of this unique and vibrant world.



FRIDAY, February 28th, 2014
Annual Meeting and Lectures
1:00pm – 4:00pm

SPEAKERS

Hugh Golson, Savannah’s noted historian and preservationist, will provide an overview of Savannah’s landscape and horticultural history, illustrating the evolution of the city’s famous squares and its legendary tree canopy.

Sarah Ross, Wormsloe Foundation President and Director of the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History, will discuss the intriguing and ongoing research into the 300-year-old landscape of the Wormsloe Historic Site.

Professor Thomas Peter Bennett, biologist, author, and former professor and director of the University of Florida’s Museum of Natural History (1986-1996), and president of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (1976-1986), will talk about his continuing research on “America’s most distinguished scientific family, the LeContes from Woodmanston Plantation”. Bennett’s forthcoming book, *Florida Explored: The Philadelphia Connection*, describes many of the contributions made by this distinguished family from Liberty County, Georgia.

Ced Dolder, preservationist and author, will discuss the career of the late Clermont Huger Lee, who was one of the earliest women active in landscape architecture in Georgia, a passionate preservationist, and the foremost expert in recreating historic landscapes in mid-twentieth-century Savannah.



FRIDAY AFTERNOON WALKING TOURS
4:00pm- 6:00pm

Built in 1852, the **Battersby-Hartridge House and Garden** is the site of Savannah’s oldest surviving parterre garden which still retains its original design. The walled garden is viewed from a two-story, shuttered piazza seen in the homes of Charleston, South Carolina and Barbados. This private garden is owned by direct descendants of the original families.

In 1848, wealthy cotton merchant, Andrew Low, commissioned New York architect John Norris to design and construct his home in Savannah. The **Andrew Low House and Garden** is notable for its Italianate exterior of elaborate cast iron railings and front and side balconies in contrast with its smooth stuccoed brick walls. The historic front garden contains hourglass-shaped beds. The house remained in the family until the death of Andrew Low’s daughter-in-law, Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America. In 1928, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia purchased the historic site which still serves as its headquarters today.

Constructed in the early 1850’s for Englishman Charles Green by New York architect John Norris, the **Green-Meldrim House and Garden** is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the Southeastern United States. The home was used as General Sherman’s headquarters during the Federal occupation of Savannah during the Civil War. The patterns of the original garden beds have been restored. Today, this National Historic Landmark is owned and operated by St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Overlooking Chippewa Square, the **Stoddard-Lawton House and Garden** is an Italianate sandstone, thought to be designed by John Norris. It was built following the Civil War for John Stoddard, a prominent merchant and planter. Later, it became home to Alexander R. Lawton, a civic leader and member of the Georgia Assembly and the United States Minister to Austria-Hungary. In the 1950’s the house was saved from demolition by the Historic Savannah Foundation. The current owner restored the house and adapted the garden for modern downtown living.

Across from Monterey Square, the **Comer-Hill House and Garden** was built in 1880 for Hugh Moss Comer, president of the Central of Georgia Railroad. The four story brownstone in Renaissance Revival Style with side porches overlooks a restored garden. Based on the existing remnants of the original garden, the present garden consists of potted plants, a fountain and restored garden walls of bent wire and cast iron fencing.

Savannah Tree Foundation President, Karen Jenkins, along with urban forester, Bill Haws, and landscape architect, Gordon Denney will talk about the care of the public parks and discuss the **Fragrant Garden** and the **Candler Oak Tree**. **Forsyth Park and the Fragrant Garden** are not-to-be missed sites.

FRIDAY EVENING
7:00pm-9:00pm

“A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM” - The Regency-Greek Revival style Scarborough House was designed by William Jay of England in 1819 for one of the principal owners of the *Savannah*, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. This site contains the Scarborough House, Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, nineteenth-century inspired gardens, and the recently-designed North Garden. Dinner and a lecture by notable Savannah landscape designer **John McEllen** will be provided.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1st
Lecture and Tours
8:30am- 9:00am

Gene Phillips local horticulturist and co-owner of Tsubaki Camellias Wholesale Nursery, will discuss his work in camellia preservation. Phillips will also present the history of the gardens and work of Judge Arthur W. Solomon, one of America’s foremost camellia pioneers.

9:30-2:00pm

“A MORNING ON THE ISLE OF HOPE” We will explore the historic homes and gardens along the Skidaway River and its tributaries.

Wormsloe Plantation, the oldest of Georgia’s tidewater estates, has remained in the hands of the same family since the mid-1730’s when founding Georgia colonist, Noble Jones, acquired the property. In 1765 John and William Bartram visited the plantation, noting the great variety of fruit trees. During its long history, Wormsloe has been a military stronghold, plantation, early twentieth-century country residence with formal gardens, and farm. Today, it is a historic site and tourist destination with a triad-ownership—the main early 20th century house, gardens, and surrounding 60 acres by the descendants. The remaining 740 acres are owned by the Wormsloe Foundation which the State of Georgia operates as the Wormsloe State Historic Site. This includes a magnificent oak avenue, the ruins of Jone’s fortified, tabby house, a museum, and a demonstration area for interpreting colonial daily life.

Bluff Drive was once considered a resort and refuge from the summer heat. The oak lined waterfront overlooks the serene Intracoastal Waterway on the Skidaway River. The **Cope/ Jaakkola House and camellia gardens**, like many gardens from the 1930’s, contains many camellias and azaleas cultivated by Judge Arthur Solomon. His influence can be seen along highways and areas all over the county.

Camellia expert Judge Arthur W. Solomon built his unique Arts and Crafts residence, **Wellesley Manor**, in 1913 at Grimbail’s Point on the Isle of Hope. From the early 1910’s until his death in 1962, he filled his garden at Wellesley Manor with rare and beautiful species of Camellia japonica and Camellia sasanqua. The property, with many of the surviving camelias, is still occupied by the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Maclean developed a three-room garden at **Rural Felicity** beginning in 1927 at Grimbail’s Point on the Isle of Hope. Described in detail in the 1933 publication, *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933*, the property still retains a few historic landscape features. Landscape architect Jan VandenBulck designed a garden for the current homeowners in 2009.

LUNCH: Camp Villa Marie
Return to Desoto Hilton Hotel 2:00pm.
Break: 2:20-3:15pm

3:30pm-5:30pm
An Afternoon at the Coastal Botanical Gardens
at the Historic Bamboo Farm

This 51-acre site is an historic USDA plant introduction station, which later became a regional botanical garden. Now part of the University of Georgia’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the gardens hold one of the largest bamboo collections open to the public in North America. In addition to this extensive bamboo collection, most of which was planted in the 1920’s and 1930’s, the gardens also feature the Judge Arthur Solomon Camellia Trail, a formal garden, children’s garden, and water garden. UGA College of Environment and Design Associate Dean of Academics, **Gregg Coyle**, will discuss the site’s master plan and vision for the future.

5:45pm-9:00pm
An Evening at Lebanon Plantation with a Lowcountry Dinner

The land on which Lebanon stands was a 500 acre Crown Grant made in 1756 to James Deveaux. In 1804 Lebanon Plantation, located on the Little Ogeechee River, became a rice plantation. In the early twentieth century, the Mills B. Lane family restored the main house and hired the Berckmans of Augusta, Georgia to design the landscape. In 1997 the owners embarked on a multiyear restoration of the main house, outbuildings, and gardens which will be toured.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2014 OPTIONAL TOUR
Limited to the first 100 paid reservations, \$75.00 per person
Departing from Hotel by 2 buses at 8:30am and 9:30am
returning at 4:30pm and 5:30pm.

“A DAY ON RICE PLANTATIONS”
Dating to 1760, **LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation** was first developed as an inland swamp rice plantation by John Eatton LeConte in Riceboro, Ga. In 1811 John’s son, Louis LeConte, established Georgia’s first botanical garden in which he pioneered the outdoor culture of Camellia japonicas and cultivated an outstanding collection of some 30 species of bulb type plants. This world famous 19th century garden is being recreated with historic roses, bulbs and camellias. This garden will be visited as well as an interpretive trail along historic earthen rice dikes. **Sara Van Beck**, an author of many articles on daffodils and bulbs, and former museum curator with the National Park Service’s Southeast Regional Office, will present information on the original plantings of narcissus and daffodils at LeConte Woodmanston Plantation.

In 1755 **Springfield Plantation** was developed as a large and prosperous rice plantation along Stevens Marsh in Liberty County, Georgia. Beginning in the 1930’s, a direct descendent of the original owners, J.P. Stevens, acquired over 300 camellia seedlings from the famed Gerbing nursery and created over 3 acres of camellias and azalea gardens set beneath the centuries-old live oaks. Today, **Dunham Farms** at the heart of Springfield Plantation, maintains a complex agricultural business combined with sustainable forestry, active environmental stewardship and nature based tourism. A tour and lunch will be offered at this historic site. Entertainment will be provided by the **Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters of McIntosh County**.

In 1807 William Brailsford of South Carolina began the development of **Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation** which produced some of the finest rice in the alluvial soil along Georgia’s Altamaha River. The twentieth century brought an end to the rice production but the plantation became Hofwyl Dairies under the fifth generation of descendants, Miriam and Ophelia Dent. Gardens were designed for the Dents by Clermont Lee in the 1940’s. In the will of Ophelia Troup Dent in 1974 Hofwyl-Broadfield was deeded to the State of Georgia. The Georgia Heritage Trust Program and Nature Conservancy Program have restored the house and some of the gardens which will be toured.