



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

# Magnolia

Publication of the Southern Garden  
History Society

Vol. XXIV

No. 2

Spring 2011

## "A New World: Naturalists and Artists in the American South"

### *The 18th Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes, Sept. 22-24*

By Davyd Foard Hood, Vale, North Carolina

The flora and fauna of the American South have engaged the scholarly interests of visitors to the region from the earliest days of European exploration in the sixteenth century. Admitting that my knowledge is somewhat parochial, I would site Hernando de Soto's exploration into the southwest mountains of North Carolina in 1540 and Juan Pardo's in 1567 among those; extensive archaeological investigations and excavations near Morganton in Burke County (some 30 miles northwest of Isinglass) confirm the Spanish passage through this area. However, Jacques Le Moyne's drawing entitled "Mode of collecting gold in streams from the Apalatchy Mountains," engraved by Theodor de Bry in *America* (1591), with Indians appearing in a waterway bordered by reeds, is more visually appealing than geographically accurate. But it does confirm the Spanish search for gold and empire, in the Appalachian Mountains in this instance, which carried their explorations into both North and South America and the opening of regions on both continents to future exploration. The drawings made by John White, dating to 1585-86, when he was a member of the English colony led by Ralph Lane, recorded many aspects of Native American life in coastal North Carolina, including the colorful fish in its waters. Many of White's drawings were published by de Bry in 1590 in the first part of *America*.



"A View of Salem in N. Carolina -1787" Ludwig Gottfried von Redeken. Salem, North Carolina, 1787. Watercolor on paper.

Courtesy, Old Salem Museums & Gardens

A certain hiatus in the seventeenth century, when settlements were established in North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and other parts of the South, was followed by sustained explorations in the eighteenth century that sometimes coupled interest in natural history with searches for valuable lands for cultivation and habitation. Two examples are representative. John Lawson's exploration of North Carolina resulted in 1709 in the publication in London of his *A New Voyage to Carolina, Containing the Exact Description and Natural History of That Country . . .* Members of SGHS who attended the

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# CALENDAR

Please visit [www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org) for more detailed descriptions of these events.

**March through November, 2011. The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program** includes over 300 private gardens in eighteen states, from southern California to the coastline of Rhode Island. [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org).

**March 25-26, 2011. "Ready, Set, Bloom!"** Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg, VA. Speakers are: Cherie Foster Colburn (coauthor, *Heirloom Bulbs for Today*), heirloom rose specialist Rev. Douglas Seidel, and Peggy Singlemann (Maymont Gardens). (434) 847-1465; [dawn@gravegarden.org](mailto:dawn@gravegarden.org); [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org)

**March 27, 2011. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Garden Symposium & Workshop**, Goodwood Museum and Gardens, Tallahassee, FL. Features Dr. Tim Smalley, *Timeless Lessons from Edinburgh*, and legendary football coach Vince Dooley on his book, *Vince Dooley's Garden – The Horticultural Journey of a Football Coach*. (850) 877-7592; [www.goodwoodmuseum.org](http://www.goodwoodmuseum.org).

**April 1-3, 2011. Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA. The 29th Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, "River Capitol: Bridging Landscapes of the Old and New South," in Baton Rouge, LA.** [www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org).

**April 6-9, 2011. Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Annual Meeting**, Fort Worth, TX. Tours of Philip Johnson's Fort Worth Water Gardens, Lawrence Halprin's Heritage Park (Trinity River bluffs), Hare & Hare's municipal rose garden (Fort Worth Botanic Garden), and historic sites along the Paluxy R. [www.ahlp.org](http://www.ahlp.org).

**April 10-11, 2011. Colonial Williamsburg 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Symposium. "Timeless Ideas for Today's Gardens."** Williamsburg, VA, cosponsor: American Horticultural Society. Speakers: Joe Lamp'l, host of *Growing a Greener World*; Roxanne Nersesian Paul (National Wildlife Federation); Doug Tallamy, Ph.D. (Univ. of DE); Paul W. Meyer, Morris Arboretum (Univ. of PA); and authors Stephanie Cohen and Suzy Bale. [www.history.org](http://www.history.org); (800) 603-0948.

**April 17, 2011. The Old Village "Home Garden & Art Tour,"** in Mt. Pleasant, SC, benefiting the American Red Cross. Tickets at: [www.lowcountryredcross.org](http://www.lowcountryredcross.org); contact Roberta Freer, [freer@usa.redcross.org](mailto:freer@usa.redcross.org); (843) 764-2323 x 386.

**April 16-23, 2011. Historic Garden Week in Virginia.** Sponsored by The Garden Club of Virginia, benefitting restoration of important historic gardens statewide. [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org); (804) 644-7776.

**April 18, 2011. "An Evening with Andrea Wulf,"** at Monticello, Charlottesville, VA. Garden party includes informal tours and champagne reception. Ms. Wulf will discuss her book *Founding Gardeners*. Reserve tickets: [www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org); (434) 984-9880.

**April 21, 2011. Andrea Wulf, McElreath Hall, Atlanta History Center,** on *Founding Gardeners*. Benefits the Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Fund of Garden Club of GA. Tickets: \$30 each, or \$50/couple. Contact Lee Dunn; [lee@dunnshouse.com](mailto:lee@dunnshouse.com); (770) 394-2834.

[Ms. Wulf lectures frequently in 2011 promoting her new book, *The Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation*. See a complete list at: [www.andreawulf.com](http://www.andreawulf.com)]

**April 27-29, 2011. TX Master Gardener Association State Conference**, Glen Rose, TX. Speakers: Paul James, Scott and Laura Springer Ogden, Bill Welch, and Anne McCormick. [www.2011tmgaconference.org](http://www.2011tmgaconference.org).

**April 29-30, 2011. "Green Gardening for the Future," GA Master Gardeners Association Annual Meeting**, Rome, GA. Speakers: Tara Dillard, Bill Welch, Paula Refi, and Terry Kay; [www.georgiamastergardeners.org](http://www.georgiamastergardeners.org).

**May 8-11, 2011. "Putting Down Roots," NC Master Gardener Conference**, Raleigh, NC. Speakers: Rosalind Creasy, Carol Reese, and Bryce Lane; [www.ncmgva.camp8.org](http://www.ncmgva.camp8.org).

**May 14-22, 2011. Follow the Blooms Garden Tour**, sponsored by the Garden Club of SC. Camden, Columbia, N. Augusta, Marion, Greenville, Simpsonville, and Charleston area gardens open on specified days. [www.gardenclubofsc.org](http://www.gardenclubofsc.org); email: [followtheblooms@gmail.com](mailto:followtheblooms@gmail.com).

**June 5, 2011. "The Sixth Annual Bellefield Design Lecture: Gardens of the Hudson Valley," presented by the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association.** Nancy Berner and Susan Lowry on their book *Gardens of the Hudson Valley*, in the Henry A. Wallace Visitor Center at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt Historic Site and FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Hyde Park, NY; garden party follows at Bellefield. Reserve tickets: [www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org](http://www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org); (845) 229-9115 ext. 2023.

**June 12-24, 2011. 15th Annual Historic Landscape Institute, "Preserving Jefferson's Gardens and Landscapes,"** Charlottesville, VA at Monticello and the University of Virginia. An introduction to the fields of landscape history, garden preservation and restoration, and historical horticulture. Lectures, workshops, field trips, and practical working experiences. Registration and fee required. (434) 984-9836; [www.monticello.org/hli](http://www.monticello.org/hli).

**June 21- 25, 2011. The Revolutionary APGA Conference 2011**, Philadelphia, PA, hosted by Chanticleer Foundation, Longwood Gardens, and Morris Arboretum in partnership with The Longwood Graduate Program, Mt. Cuba Center, The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, Tyler Arboretum, and Winterthur Museum and Garden. [www.publicgardens.org](http://www.publicgardens.org).

**September 16-17, 2011. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello.** Co-sponsored by Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. A family-oriented programs on sustainable gardening, heirloom plants, seed saving, garden history, heritage foodways, and much more. [www.HeritageHarvestFestival.com](http://www.HeritageHarvestFestival.com).

**September 22-24, 2011. Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes: "A New World: Naturalists and Artists in the American South,"** Winston-Salem, NC. [See lead article, this issue] Speakers: Andrea Wulf, Joel T. Fry, Gary Mullen, Kathryn Holland Braund, Charles Williams, Peter Hatch, James Reveal, and Bob McCartney. Conference cosponsors: Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, and SGHS. Contact Sally Gant, [sgant@oldsalem.org](mailto:sgant@oldsalem.org); [www.oldsalem.org](http://www.oldsalem.org)



## A New World:.....(continued from page 1)

2001 annual meeting will remember his critical association with the settlement on the Neuse River supported by Baron Christoph von Graffenried that became New Bern. John Lawson (1674-1711) came to a tragic end in the late summer of 1711, when his final expedition was curtailed by the Tuscarora Indians and he was put to death. Now, three hundred years later, his book remains highly readable and in print. (Robert Beverley's *History and Present State of Virginia* published in 1705, also retains a strong appeal.)

Another exploration, in the mid-eighteenth century, is likewise associated with efforts to locate a town in a desirable location. In 1752, August Gottlieb Spangenberg, a Moravian bishop in Pennsylvania, came to North Carolina seeking territory in which to plant a Southern colony. He decided on a tract of nearly 100,000 well-watered and wooded acres, which was set apart as Wachovia in old Rowan/now Forsyth County. Salem, the third, principal town established by the Moravians, prospered and in 1913 was consolidated with neighboring Winston to form Winston-Salem. The Moravians were among America's most committed record keepers, and they left a remarkable documentation of their activities much of which, covering the period from 1752 to 1876, has been published as the *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina* in thirteen volumes by the North Carolina Historical Commission between 1922 and 2006. Members of the congregation, principally Christian Reuter, produced valuable maps and others contributed to a herbarium that also survives. The Friday afternoon session, "Naturalists, Botanists and Surveyors in Salem," will treat this enterprise as a case study.

It was between the explorations of John Lawson and Bishop Spangenberg that Mark Catesby (1682-1749), the English-born naturalist, made his two important expeditions to the American South and saw into print the magnificent work that secured his reputation. In 1712 he



HYDRANGAEA QUERCIFOLIA. From Bartram's Travels.

Photo courtesy of Auburn University Libraries

came to Williamsburg and accepted the hospitality of his sister, Elizabeth, and her husband, Dr. William Cocke, that allowed him the comfort to travel throughout most of Virginia collecting plants and seeds that he dispatched to friends in England and making drawings and watercolors of plants, birds, and other animals. His Virginia stay, which lasted until 1719, also included a visit in 1714 to Jamaica. In 1722 Mark Catesby returned to North America on his Carolina expedition that included a visit to the Bahamas in 1725 and extended to

1726, when he returned to London. There he undertook the publication of *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* that was published in parts as two volumes beginning in 1729.

John Bartram (1699-1777), a near contemporary and correspondent of Mark Catesby, was this country's first native-born naturalist and the pioneering botanist who created a garden, beginning in about 1728, on the bank of the Schuylkill River that survives today and enjoys an unequalled regard in American horticultural history. The story of his celebrated correspondence with Peter Collinson (1694-1768), begun in 1733, and their plant exchanges is splendidly told by Andrea Wulf in *The Brother Gardeners*, published in this country in 2009. John Bartram's serious botanical expeditions began in the 1730s and included a trip to Virginia in 1737, a trip to South Carolina in 1759 when he also visited his half-brother William Bartram living on the Cape Fear River near Wilmington, North Carolina, another trip to North Carolina in 1761 in the company of his sons, Moses and William, and a trip with William to Florida and Georgia in 1765-66.

William Bartram (1739-1823) lived a life as distinguished as that of his father, and together they exercised a role in American natural history that has no

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## A New World:.....(continued from page 3)

example in its length and influence. He, too, was an inveterate traveler, and in March 1773 he set out on a trip of some 2,500 miles that carried him throughout the South and the adjoining Indian Territories. It would occupy him for nearly four years, until early January 1777, when he returned to Philadelphia and his father's side. The two men would share a final eight months together, much of it spent recounting William's travels, until John Bartram's death on 22 September 1777. William Bartram's *Travels Through North & South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida, the Cherokee Country, . . . Containing an Account of the Soil and Natural Productions of Those Regions; Together with Observations on the Manners of the Indians* was published in 1791. (It, too, remains in print and will be available at the conference bookshop.)

The lives of a final pair of English-born naturalists and a Frenchman, André Michaux, together with that of John James Audubon, carry the story of natural history exploration and artistry through the later eighteenth century and into the mid-nineteenth century. André Michaux (1746-1802), who established gardens near both Hackensack, New Jersey, in 1785, and in 1786 near

Charleston, South Carolina, traveled widely in the South searching for plants and into New England and lower Canada. On most of his travels he was accompanied by his son François André Michaux (1770-1855). André Michaux departed Charleston for France in 1796. He died six years later on an expedition at Madagascar. His *Flora Boreali-Americana* was published in 1803. His son's *North American Sylva* appeared in three volumes in 1817-1819. Their joint herbarium is housed today in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. André Michaux is credited with introducing two mainstays of the Southern landscape, the camellia and the crape myrtle, into our gardens.

John Abbot (1751-ca. 1840) was born in London and came early to the field of natural history. By 1773 he had received commissions from the Royal Society and private collectors to come to America and collect specimens. He arrived in Virginia in September 1773, and instead of following up on a letter of introduction to Dr. James Greenway of Dinwiddie County, he accepted the invitation of Parke and Mary Goodall of Hanover County, fellow passengers on his transatlantic crossing, to



Joshua Shaw's *Witch Duck Creek*, c. 1835, oil on canvas. Gift of Charles H. Babcock, Sr.

Courtesy of Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Winston-Salem, NC



board with them. He remained with the Goodalls for two years, until December 1775, when he resolved to relocate to Georgia. Abbot's principal interest was butterflies, and he found Georgia's rich population of butterflies sufficient for his life's work. He would remain there until death, enjoying the patronage of botanist planter John Eatton LeConte Jr. (1784-1860), among others. Over the course of nearly seven decades, he produced over 5,000 watercolors. His work first appeared in 1797 in London as illustrations for *The Natural History of the Rarer Lepidopterous Insects of Georgia . . . Collected from the Observations of Mr. John Abbot*. Important collections of his watercolors are in the libraries of the University of Georgia, Harvard University, the University of South Carolina, and the American Philosophical Society and at the Georgia Museum of Art. A "Painted Bunting" executed in graphite and watercolor by John Abbot is owned by MESDA and will be on exhibit during the conference. *John Abbot's Birds of Georgia* is available from The Beehive Foundation.

Philip Henry Gosse (1810-1888), the youngest of the naturalists whose Southern work is addressed in this conference, also spent the shortest period of his career in the South. Born in Worcester, England, he emigrated in 1827 to Newfoundland, where he first applied his interest in entomology. In 1835 he relocated to Compton, also in Canada, to a farm where he continued his research on insects but failed as a farmer. In 1838 Philip Henry Gosse was in Alabama, where he was a private teacher for Reuben Saffold on his plantation, Belvoir, near Pleasant Hill. During that eight-month term, he drew the flora and fauna of the area that came to form the manuscript of "Entomologia Alabamensis." His experience of slavery was recounted in *Letters From Alabama*, published in 1859. Mr. Gosse returned to England in 1839, where his *Canadian Naturalist* was published in 1840. Over the final forty-eight years of his life, Philip Henry Gosse embraced religion and wrote numerous articles and books on various subjects, including a trilogy on the natural history of Jamaica based on field work and collecting there from 1844 to 1846. The family surname is more widely known today as that of the naturalist's son, Sir Edmund William Gosse (1849-1928), the English poet, author, and critic, who wrote *The Life of Philip Henry Gosse* (1890) and recounted his troubled relationship with his father and his religiosity in *Father and Son* (1907), which has remained in print for over a century. In 2010 The University of Alabama Press published *Philip Henry Gosse: Science and Art in Letters from Alabama and Entomologia Alabamensis*.



The conference planning committee has assembled an outstanding group of speakers who bring important experience, a distinguished record of research and

publication, and significant administrative responsibility to their presentations in September. The conference schedule follows its established pattern except in two instances that benefit this year's program. The Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture by Andrea Wulf will be given at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art on Thursday evening rather than at MESDA. On Saturday Robert McCartney, the founding proprietor of Woodlanders Nursery in Aiken, will speak to his work as a naturalist in the twenty-first century. The conference brochure with a full schedule and particulars will be mailed later this spring.

### Thursday, 22 September

The Thursday schedule allows attendees arriving early opportunities to participate in special tours of Salem and its landscape crafted to the theme of this conference and to make first-choice selections at the heirloom plant sale. Buses will begin departing Old Salem at 4:00 p.m. for Reynolda House, where a special exhibition on the theme of Southern Naturalism will include works by John James Audubon, Joshua Shaw's "Witch Duck Creek," Edward Hicks' "Peaceable Kingdom of the Branch," David Johnson's "Natural Bridge," and others. Drinks and a buffet supper will precede Andrea Wulf's address,

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*Painted Bunting (or Finch), by John Abbot from The Natural History of the Rarer Lepidopterous Insects of Georgia, published in 1797. Watercolor and graphite on paper.*

Collection of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem, NC

## A New World:.....(continued from page 5)

“Revolutionary Gardeners: The Founding Fathers and the Creation of an American Eden.” In the next months many attendees will be able to hear Ms. Wulf speak during her travels promoting *The Founding Gardeners*. With her unique background as the author of *The Brother Gardeners* and *The Founding Gardeners*, she is well-suited to craft the opening address that places our conference in the larger context of natural history that she has made her own chosen field.

### Friday, 23 September

The morning and afternoon sessions, respectively, address the South as an area of natural history exploration and the Wachovia Tract, including Salem, Bethania, and Bethabara, and much of present-day Forsyth County, as the home-ground of Moravian naturalists, mapmakers, and artists. Kathryn Holland Braund, the co-editor of *Fields of Vision: Essays on the Travels of William Bartram*, will serve as moderator of the morning session. James L. Reveal, emeritus professor at the University of Maryland, presents the first paper, “Mark Catesby’s American Botanical Explorations and their Results.” He will be followed at the dais by John V. Calhoun, a research associate at the Florida Museum of Natural History, who will speak to the extraordinary life’s work of John Abbot. Gary Richard Mullen, emeritus professor of entomology at Auburn University, concludes this trio of papers with his presentation on the contributions of Philip Henry Gosse and his all too brief visit to the South.

Following lunch, John Larson, vice-president for restoration at Old Salem Museums & Gardens, introduces the afternoon session that focuses on the role of the Moravian community in natural history with papers by local scholars. C. Daniel Crews, archivist of the Moravian Church, Southern Province, will provide an overview of the Wachovia settlement and the exploration that planted it on fertile lands. Presentations on Christian Reuter, the surveyor of Wachovia, by Martha Hartley and on Lewis David VonSchweinitz, a Moravian botanist, by Paula Locklair and Lee Bynum Schwall, will describe their important contributions in the larger history of this cultured German-speaking people. The paper session will be followed by visits to the Moravian Archives and the herbarium at the Salem Academy and College. The day concludes with hearty refreshments in the Single Brothers Kitchen and Garden.

### Saturday, 24 September

Davyd Foard Hood will moderate this session that focuses on the lives of three critical figures in American

natural history whose contributions as naturalists, gardeners, and writers reflect a valuable Southern experience. Peter Hatch, director of Monticello’s gardens and grounds for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, will address John Custis, his correspondence, and his legendary garden in Williamsburg. Joel T. Fry, curator of Bartram’s Garden, likewise brings a learned discernment and experience to his presentation on John Bartram and the Southern plants he cultivated in his Philadelphia garden and shipped abroad. The role of André Michaux as an observer of Southern flora and the long-lost garden he established outside Charleston will be the subject of Charlie Williams’s concluding paper.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes will end with lunch and a look to the future of native plants and natural history study delivered by Robert McCartney, who established and operates Woodlanders Nursery, a specialist grower of native plants, in Aiken, South Carolina.



Mark Catesby, *American Partridge* (*Colinus virginianus*), copper plate engraving, hand colored, c. 1731. The bird (likely the Bobwhite Quail) is set against the *Atamasco Lily* (*Zephyranthes atamasco*) an *Amaryllis* native of the Southeast.

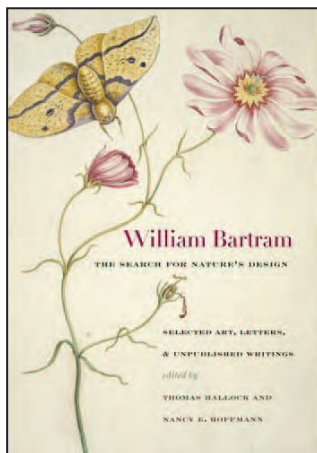
Collection of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Old Salem Museums & Gardens



## In Print

The following books were written or edited by three of this year's speakers for the Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference in Old Salem. Refer to the lead article for information about their presentations.

**William Bartram, *The Search for Nature's Design: Selected Art, Letters, and Unpublished Writings***, edited by Thomas Hallock and Nancy E. Hoffmann; University of Georgia, publishers; 520 pages, 96 color and 7 black and white photos, 2 maps; cloth, \$49.95; 2010, ISBN 978-0-8203-2877-5



An important figure in early American science and letters, William Bartram (1739-1823) has been known almost exclusively for his classic book, *Travels*. *William Bartram, The Search for Nature's Design* presents new material in the form of art, letters, and unpublished manuscripts.

These documents expand our knowledge of Bartram as an explorer, naturalist, artist, writer, and citizen of the early Republic. Part One, the correspondence, includes letters to and from Bartram's family, friends, and peers, establishing his developing consciousness about the natural world as well as his passion for rendering it in drawing. The difficult business of undertaking scientific study and commercial botany in the eighteenth century comes alive through letters that detail travel arrangements, enduring hardship, and mentoring. Commonly regarded as a recluse or eccentric, Bartram instead emerges as deeply engaged with the major ideas, issues, and intellectual life of his time.

Part Two presents selections from Bartram's diverse but little-known unpublished writings. Leading scholars in their field introduce manuscripts such as a draft for *Travels*, garden diaries faithfully kept, an antislavery treatise scrawled on the back of a plant catalog, a commonplace book, pharmacopia compiled for his brothers, and exacting accounts of Native American culture. Each selection reveals another dimension of Bartram's unending interest in the world he encountered at home and traveling the southern colonies.

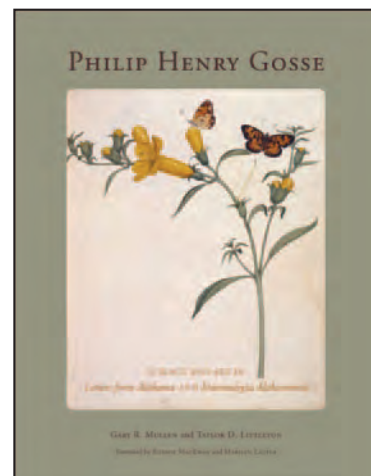
Thomas Hallock, assistant professor of English at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, is the author of *From the Fallen Tree: Frontier Narratives, Environmental Politics, and the Roots of a National Literature, 1749-1826*.

Nancy E. Hoffmann is an adjunct professor at Villanova University. She co-edited the tercentennial reappraisal *America's Curious Botanist: John Bartram, 1699-1777*.

Two contributors to this book are also speakers at the RSGL Conference. **Kathryn E. Holland Braund** wrote the introduction to the chapter on Native Americans in William Bartram's 'Hints & Observations'. She was president of the Bartram Trail Conference. Associate editor **Joel T. Fry**, curator of Bartram's Garden, assisted with the book's section of Bartram's letters, wrote the introduction to the chapter on Bartram's "Commonplace Book," and compiled the book's comprehensive "Index of Historic Plant Names." Fry has written extensively on the history of Bartram's Garden, the Bartram family plant collections, and is author of *Bartram's Garden Catalogue of North American Plants, 1783*, published in the *Journal of Garden History, an International Quarterly*, Volume 16-Number 1, January-March 1996.



**Philip Henry Gosse: *Science and Art in Letters from Alabama and Entomologia Alabamensis***, Gary R. Mullen and Taylor D. Littleton; published by the University of Alabama, co-published with the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art and Auburn University Libraries; 144 pages, 57 illustrations; cloth, \$29.95; 2010, ISBN: 978-0-8173-1708-9



Philip Henry Gosse's detailed watercolors of Alabama's native insects and plants represent a landmark in the annals of American natural history. Offered for the first time are the complete full-color illustrations from Gosse's *Entomologia Alabamensis*, along with a biographical essay placing Gosse's work in the context of his long and fruitful life.

Born in 1810 in Worcester, England, the young Philip Henry Gosse developed a passion for the natural world. Having learned the basics of miniature portraiture from his father, Gosse quickly took to his artistic subjects the flourishing marine life he discovered along the English coast. In May, 1838, Gosse took a teaching job in Dallas County, Alabama. For the next eight months he collected the insect specimens that he would preserve in the beautiful

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## In Print..... (continued from page 7)

fully detailed watercolors of *Entomologia Alabamensis*. In addition, he composed a highly personalized chronology of his life in a frontier culture, published eventually as *Letters from Alabama*. Following his return to England, Gosse went on to publish more than 40 books, producing some of the 19th century's finest illustrations of insects and marine organisms. Today, he is remembered as a popular writer of science for the general public and as a passionate artist whose work in Alabama and elsewhere captured and revealed the beauty and vitality of the natural world.

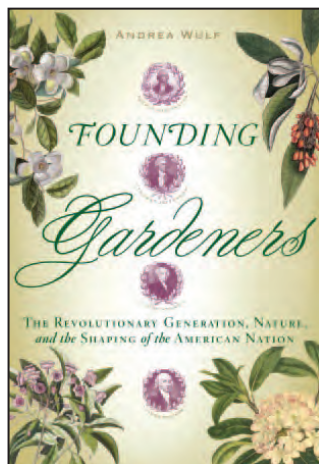


### ***Founding Gardeners. The Revolutionary Generation, Nature and the Shaping of the American Nation,***

by Andrea Wulf, Knopf, publishers; 352 pages; cloth, \$30; 2011, ISBN: 978-0-307-26990-4 (0-307-26990-6)

*The Founding Gardeners* offers a fascinating look at the revolutionary generation from the unique and intimate perspective of their lives as gardeners, plantsmen, and farmers.

For the founding fathers, gardening, agriculture and botany were elemental passions, as deeply ingrained in their characters as their belief in liberty for the nation



they were creating. Andrea Wulf colorfully reveals this aspect of the revolutionary generation. She describes how, even as British ships gathered off Staten Island, George Washington wrote his estate manager about the garden at Mount Vernon; how a tour of English gardens renewed Thomas Jefferson's and John Adams's faith in their fledgling nation; how a trip to the great botanist John Bartram's garden helped the delegates of the Constitutional Congress to break their deadlock; and why James Madison is the forgotten father of American environmentalism. Taken together, these and other stories are a revelation of a guiding, but previously overlooked ideology of the American Revolution.

*The Founding Gardeners* adds depth and nuance to our understanding of the American experiment, and provides us with a portrait of the founding fathers as they've never been seen before.

Andrea Wulf was born in India and moved to Germany as a child. She trained as a design historian at Royal College of Art and is the author of *The Brother Gardeners* (long-listed for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2008 and winner of the American Horticultural Society 2010 Book Award) and she co-authored, with Emma Gieben-Gamal, *This Other Eden: Seven Great Gardens and 300 Years of English History*. She has written for *The Sunday Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, *The Garden*, and regularly reviews for several newspapers, including the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Guardian* and the *New York Times*. Andrea is the Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Speaker at the Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference.

## SGHS Annual Meetings on the Horizon

### **2012 Annual Meeting**

The 2012 annual meeting will be based at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, in Fort Myers, Florida. This will be the society's first return to Florida since the 1997 meeting in Tallahassee. The planning committee for 2012 is chaired by Chris Pendleton, President and CEO, who reports that activities will include tours of gardens in downtown historic Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, and of Mound House and Gardens, a recently restored historic home and garden built atop a Calusa Indian Shell Mound. Tours of several private gardens also are planned as well as a cruise

to Sanibel and Captiva Islands and the estate of Byron Collier on Useppa Island.

**2013 Annual Meeting** Lynchburg, VA, May 4-6. Jane White is coordinating the meeting and promises visits to Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, the Anne Spencer Garden, Old City Cemetery, and Pharsalia.

**2014 Annual Meeting** is slated for a return to Savannah, GA, date TBD. Meeting coordinator is Lucy Hitch.



# Book Reviews

***Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs*** by James R. Cothran, University of South Carolina Press, 2010, hardcover; list price \$39.95; ISBN: 978-1-57003-891-4

Award-winning landscape architect and garden historian Jim Cothran's new book, *Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs*, is a fascinating study of the individual most associated with the so-called "Charleston Style" of garden design. Building on his earlier work, *Gardens of Historic Charleston*, Cothran's

new book provides a comprehensive account of the life and career of renowned landscape architect Loutrel Briggs and analyzes the highly successful conventions of his design philosophy. Cothran's research uncovered details of Briggs' early career and training, as well as his life in Charleston over his many years of residency, that have not been published before. In addition, the book contains valuable information about easements as an effective means of preserving historic gardens.

The book opens with an overview of Charleston's garden history, beginning with plantations such as Crowfield, Middleton Place, Drayton Hall, and Magnolia on the Ashley and Mulberry, Medway, and Middleburg on the Cooper. The text quickly shifts to a discussion of gardens in the city, the focus of the book. The design of the Charleston "single house" determined the spatial layout of the town garden. Cothran concludes the opening chapter with a discussion of the footprint of Charleston gardens, whose shifting patterns reflected changes in use. In the twentieth century, new pleasure gardens were expanded to the rear of the house into areas that had originally accommodated a variety of outbuildings and a work yard.

Cothran's biographical profile begins with Loutrel Briggs' birth in New York City on December 12, 1893. He briefly attended the Art Students League of New York before enrolling at Cornell University to study landscape architecture in 1914. After graduation in 1917, Briggs is thought to have apprenticed in the office of a landscape architect; he set up an independent practice in New York City in 1921. Briggs added teaching to his resume in

1924, when he began as an instructor at the New York School of Fine and Applied Art, while maintaining a private practice. Briggs and his students traveled to Europe in 1924 to study the gardens of Italy, France, and England, an experience he said gave him "a clearer understanding of what could be achieved in American gardens."

A visit to Charleston, South Carolina, in 1927 was a pivotal point in Loutrel Briggs' career, leading him to open a seasonal office in 1929. From this point forward, Briggs maintained a winter residence in Charleston, where he met and married Emily Crompton Barker of Philadelphia, who had an antiques and interior design shop on Church Street. By 1933, Briggs' design practice had expanded to the point of taking on a partner, Carl Stelling of New York. The partnership lasted six years, during which time the firm completed many commercial, municipal, and residential projects in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. An important design commission in Charleston during this period was that for Mrs. Washington (Cornelia) Roebling for the William Gibbes House. Briggs' design respected the historic integrity of the site and reflected the design tradition of old Charleston gardens. Thus began a design style discussed in more detail in later chapters. Loutrel Briggs lost his wife, Emily, on September 18, 1950. He dedicated his forthcoming book, *Charleston Gardens* (1951), to her memory, describing here as the person "who first showed me the gardens of Charleston."

In the 1950s, Briggs began the transition to becoming a full-time resident of Charleston. On June 7, 1953, he married Mrs. Virginia Crowe Burks of Philadelphia, who resided on Wadmalaw Island outside Charleston. They built a permanent residence on Ladson Street and converted a carriage house into an office, where he worked until his death in 1977. During his career, Briggs designed over 100 small gardens in the historic district alone, and ownership of a Briggs garden eventually became a status symbol.

Before describing the Briggs design style in detail, Cothran discusses the landscape architect's role in the Charleston Renaissance, early historic preservation efforts, and community and civic projects. These chapters provide a context for Briggs design style and remind us that artists like Alice Ravenel Huger Smith, Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, Anna Taylor Heyward, and Alfred Hutty rekindled a new appreciation of the unique physical and visual environment of Charleston's cultural and historic past, as tourists sought Charleston as a new destination. Briggs began writing articles about Charleston gardens for national magazines, including *Country Life* (1932), *Town*

(continued on page 10)

## Book Reviews..... (continued from page 9)

and Country (1933), and *House and Garden* (1933). These lavishly illustrated articles promoted Charleston's historic houses, lovely gardens, and picturesque beauty.

Loutrel Briggs was personally involved in Charleston's historic preservation movement. He carried out one of the first independently executed preservation projects in Charleston when he bought Catfish Row on Church Street and developed a restoration plan, which featured retail shops on the first floor and residential units that faced an interior courtyard. Briggs was a founding trustee of the Historic Charleston Foundation and was an advocate for many early landscape preservation projects, including the protection and preservation of the historic tree canopy along Highway 17 between Charleston and Summerville and the preservation of the gardens of the Hampton-Preston House in Columbia. His community and civic projects remain some of Charleston's most visited sites and include Gateway Walk and improvements to the Heyward-Washington House garden. A lesser known project was his design for the South Carolina Memorial Garden in Columbia.

Given the number of garden designed by Loutrel Briggs in Charleston over the years, Mr. Cothran chose representative examples for in depth discussion, including the plantation gardens at Mepkin and Mulberry, Mrs. Emily Whaley's garden, the William Gibbes House garden, the Hagood garden, the Wilcox garden, and a garden for the Mills House Hotel. These descriptions include fascinating accounts of how the gardens came to be designed. Following are chapters devoted to the Briggs design style, including site details and his plant palette. The book concludes with information on garden easements and a landscape documentation project for Briggs gardens undertaken by the Historic Charleston Foundation. Lastly, Cothran includes a comprehensive list of gardens designed by Loutrel Briggs. *Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs* is a significant contribution to southern garden history in a beautifully illustrated book of 208 pages.

Reviewed by Susan L. Hitchcock, Eatonton, Georgia



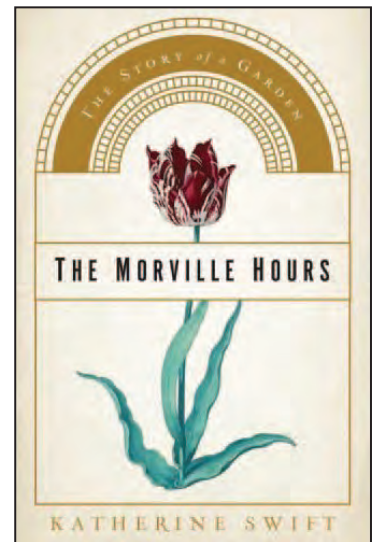
***The Morville Hours*** by Katherine Swift, Walker & Company, 2008, hardcover, 368 pages, limited illustrations, ISBN-10: 0802717535; ISBN-13: 9780802717535, list price \$27.

A most unusual garden book has come to my attention called *The Morville Hours*, the very personal story of garden-making on the estate of Morville in the west

country of England. The author, Katherine Swift, is a rare book librarian and an accomplished author who has published many times in the British magazine *Hortus* and *The Times* of London. This work is written not as the typical garden narrative but as a medieval Book of Hours, the chapters—Vigils, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline—named for the Hours of the Divine Office

codified by St. Benedict in the sixth century. Originally each Hour was composed of psalms, prayers, readings and hymns which changed with the season. Swift's choice of this structure was partly inspired by the fact that the Benedictine priory of Morville had occupied the site from the twelfth to sixteenth centuries and it allowed the author to explore and explain every aspect of her thoughts about garden-making. The calendar-like quality of the original Books of Hours and their depictions of seasonal agricultural activities—digging, pruning, sowing, reaping, chopping wood, scything grain, treading grapes, feasting—each in their allotted months, also appealed to the author. Swift writes, "So it was that the Hours came to mirror my life in the garden. . . from the crunch of grass underfoot at midnight on a frosty New Year's Eve. . . to the bloom of blue-black damsons picked on a golden September afternoon . . . to the smell of holly and ivy cut in the dusk of a rainy Christmas Eve."

Katherine Swift and her husband came to occupy the Dower House at Morville Hall in Shropshire, England, in 1988 at which time Swift retired from library work and began to develop her ideal garden. But the process would not be simple. The history of the land itself and all the peoples that had lived on it, from the medieval priory of Morville to the generations of owners of Morville Hall, captured her imagination. As she sought to understand this history we are offered a cornucopia of information about Western civilization, the derivation of words, traditional practices, astronomy, botanical history and more. The natural history Swift presents to us is layered with poetically beautiful descriptions of natural phenomena and observations of rural life both past and present. She expresses a love of the countryside and its people that is deep but not sentimental. Very gently the author inserts vignettes of her own story and gradually





reveals why gardens are so deeply meaningful to her.

"I came to make a garden but found that one garden was not enough," explains Swift in the first chapter as she found herself making gardens dedicated to individuals in the history of Morville. For the monks that lived at Morville Priory for four centuries, she laid out the Cloister Garden "with trellises interwoven with red and white roses, turf seats, trees clipped into quaint shapes, close cropped grass enamelled with flowers." In honor of a nineteenth-century landowner, she added "... a rose border of pillars and swags for a Victorian patriarch." Swift selected the plants for each garden carefully to be appropriate to or symbolic of the period. Twenty years later, when the gardens were complete, Swift also completed this book.

Unlike the richly illuminated Books of Hours commissioned for personal worship in medieval Europe, Swift's book is sparsely illustrated with black and white drawings, a plan of her garden and a map of the region. It is very different from the photographic garden books popular today and captures our attention not with images but with the sophistication of its writing and complexity of its story. Swift's interpretation of five centuries of British landscape history, interwoven in her narrative, is not only accurate but brilliant (according to this landscape historian) giving this work an appeal to those who love garden history and garden-making.

Reviewed by Val Libby, Blue Hill, Maine

## Members in the News

The February 2011 issue of *Turf Magazine* features the **Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont** (in Fredericksburg, Virginia) and the efforts of **Beate Jensen**, buildings and grounds preservation supervisor. The article by Patrick White, entitled "History Repeats Itself: Grand estate maintained with historical sensitivity and modern tools," describes the particular challenges inherent in maintaining the integrity of a historic garden while making concessions to modern needs and usage. See the full article at: [turfmagazine.com/article-6531.aspx](http://turfmagazine.com/article-6531.aspx).

Landscape designer **Barbara Paca** and her husband, architect **Philip Logan**, are featured in the March/April 2011 issue of *Preservation* magazine. The article by James H. Schwartz, "Designed for Living: Two preservation pros turned their c. 1880 Maryland house into an energy-efficient, wheelchair-accessible retreat," describes the couple's restoration efforts to blend history with sustainability in this Oxford, Maryland cottage. The remodeling, according to Paca, is "sustainable preservation beautifully realized." See the full article at: [preservationnation.org/magazine/2011/march-april/designed-for-living.html](http://preservationnation.org/magazine/2011/march-april/designed-for-living.html).

## Awards and Scholarships

The **Flora Ann Bynum Award** is the highest award bestowed by the Southern Garden History Society. It is not awarded annually, but only occasionally to members who have rendered outstanding service to the society. Nominations may be made at any time by any member. The nomination should contain a cover letter outlining the service, contributions, and accomplishments of the nominee, the names and addresses of at least three other people knowledgeable of the nominee, and any other supporting material the nominator wishes to include. Nominations should be sent to the society President. The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors who must approve the award. The award, if conferred, will usually be presented at the annual meeting.

The title **Honorary Director** (Board of Directors) may be bestowed on individuals who have rendered exceptional service and made significant contributions to the society. The distinction is usually given to individuals who have served as officers or Board members for a number of years or to others whose long term work and devotion have significantly advanced the society's mission, goals, and objectives. Honorary Directors enjoy the rights and privileges described in the by-laws. Nominations for Honorary Director are made to the President by current Board members and are approved by the Board of Directors.

The **Certificate of Merit** is presented to a member or non-member, whose work has advanced the mission and goals of the society. The certificate may be for a body of work or for an individual project including, but not limited to, restoration of a garden, leadership in a project relevant to the society's interest, research, or publications. Nominations for Certificates of Merit should be sent to the President and should include a cover letter and supporting documentation. Awarding of certificates will be approved by the Board of Directors and will usually be announced at the annual meeting.

Society **Scholarships** assist students in attending the society's annual meeting and are awarded to bona fide students enrolled in college and university majors relevant to the mission and goals of the society. Previous recipients are ineligible except that students may apply for scholarships once while an undergraduate and once while pursuing a graduate degree. Normally only one scholarship is awarded per annual meeting. The scholarship provides a waiver of registration fees plus \$500 to assist with travel and lodging. Applications, consisting of a letter from the student stating his/her course of study, interest, and career objectives and a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor certifying the student is enrolled in a degree granting program, should be sent to the society President no later than March 1.



Southern Garden History Society

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Virginia Historical Society, www.vahistorical.org

Mark Catesby, *Mock-bird and Dogwood*, plate 27, from *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Island*, 1731-43. Catesby observed "mockingbirds and other kinds of thrushes" feeding on the red berries of the dogwood, pictured here in the pink form. "In Virginia I found one of these dogwood trees with flowers of a rose color, which was luckily blown down, and many of its branches had taken root, which I transplanted into a garden."

## Annual Membership Dues

The society's membership year is from **August 1—July 31**. The membership secretary will mail renewal notices in the summer for the 2010-2011 year. Membership categories:

<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Sustainer</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Institution or Business</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>Joint</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>\$15</b>

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*Deadline for submitting articles for the Summer issue of Magnolia is May 20, 2011.*

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