



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

# Magnolia

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## Clermont Lee, (1914-2006) Pioneering Savannah Landscape Architect

By Ced Dolder, Atlanta, Georgia

She has been called the Saint of Savannah's Squares. She found her personal spirituality by clearing out old rural cemeteries on Sundays. She didn't buy into any fashion trends and bought her clothes at Kmart. She was irascible and not shy about a scuffle should she need to get her point heard. But most of all she was a pioneer. She was Clermont Lee, one of the first professional women practicing in the field of landscape architecture in Georgia, and known as the foremost expert in recreating historic landscapes in mid-twentieth-century Savannah.

Born in Savannah to a comfortably well-off family, her father a physician and her mother active in the local garden club, Lee was first sent to private schools in Savannah and Charleston. She then attended Barnard College in New York City, where she became captivated with the sciences. She once related that she signed up for every course offered that ended in "ology." She later transferred to Smith College, in Northampton, Massachusetts, eventually deciding to major in landscape architecture. After completing her undergraduate degree, she attended the Smith College Graduate School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (formerly the Cambridge School) near Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, obtaining a master's of landscape architecture degree in 1939. Although Harvard was, at the time, the center for forward thinking modernist "Bauhaus" architecture, Lee always preferred designing traditional, more Southern, less severe, landscape styles.

A search for employment during the Great Depression brought Lee back to Savannah. It became known that government work would be her only possibility since government contracts required personnel with degrees. The precursor to the Federal Housing Authority, the U.S. Housing Authority, allowed architects to select



Courtesy of Juliette Low Birthplace

Clermont Lee, the first female professional landscape architect to open a private practice in Savannah, in the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace garden.

their own *landscape* architects to work alongside them. After his male assistant was drafted into military service, Talmadge Baumgardner of the Sea Island Company hired

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# CALENDAR

Please visit the SGHS Web site, [www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org), for a complete and more detailed calendar with the latest updates and links to individual Web sites.

**June 12–September 20, 2014. Taking Root: The Summer Brothers and the History of Pomaria Nursery.**

An exhibition at the University of South Carolina (Columbia) that celebrates the horticultural achievements of the Summer family and explores the history of Pomaria Nursery. See exhibition review, page 8. Call (803) 777-7251; visit [artsandsciences.sc.edu/mckissickmuseum](http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/mckissickmuseum)

**Through September 7, 2014. “Groundbreakers: Great American Gardens and the Women Who Designed Them,”**

at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Exhibition celebrates the life and work of three pioneering women—Beatrix Farrand, Marian Coffin, and Ellen Shipman—who dominated American garden design of the early 20th century. Garden photographers Jessie Tarbox Beals and Frances Benjamin Johnston are also featured. Call (718) 817-8700; visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

**September 12–13, 2014. 8th Annual Heritage**

**Harvest Festival at Monticello.** This family-friendly event in Charlottesville, Virginia, celebrates Thomas Jefferson, who championed vegetable cuisine, sustainable agriculture, and plant experimentation by featuring heirloom fruits and vegetables, organic gardening, seed saving, and more. Friday evening preview event features keynote lecturer Aaron Keefer, Culinary Gardener of the French Laundry, followed by a Chef’s Harvest Dinner on Montalto. Visit [heritageharvestfestival.com](http://heritageharvestfestival.com)

**September 20, 2014. Plants and Planter: Henry William Ravenel and the Convergence of Science and Agriculture in the 19th Century South.** Symposium observing the bicentennial birthday of renowned botanist Henry William Ravenel. University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences, A. C. Moore Herbarium, Columbia, South Carolina. Visit [artsandsciences.sc.edu/](http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/)

**October 10–11, 2014. The 26th Annual Southern Garden Symposium and Workshops,** St. Francisville, Louisiana. Featured speakers LSU Ag Center’s Dan Gill and New Orleans landscape architect Rene Fransen are joined by SGHS board members and authors Dr. William Welch and Greg Grant along with Chris Weisinger. Venues include Afton Villa Gardens,

Beechwood, Hemingbough, Jackson Hall at Grace Church, Rosedown Plantation, and Temple Sinai. Call (225) 635-3738 or email [luciecassity@bellsouth.net](mailto:luciecassity@bellsouth.net); visit [southerngardensymposium.org](http://southerngardensymposium.org)

**October 15 – 17, 2014. “Telling the Gardens**

**Story,”** presented by the Historic Landscape Section of the American Public Garden Association, hosted by Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library, Newark, Delaware. Join historic landscape and garden professionals to explore, learn, and share strategies for interpreting our gardens to new audiences in the digital age, while honoring layers of history, caring for aging plant collections, and building core support within the organization. Keynote speaker: Charles Birnbaum. Contact Linda Eirhart at [LEirha@winterthur.org](mailto:LEirha@winterthur.org)

**October 31–November 2, 2014. “Colonial Revival at the Crossroads: Colonial Revival landscapes— their significance, challenges, and preservation,”** at Stratford Hall, Virginia, explores how to identify, evaluate, interpret, and manage Colonial Revival landscapes. The three-year study of Stratford Hall’s landscape and gardens, along with other regional Colonial Revival sites, will offer participants a “case study” in which to explore these issues. Speakers include: M. Kent Brinkley, Elizabeth Hope Cushing, Kenneth McFarland, Dennis Pogue, William Rieley, Dr. Douglas Sanford, Lucy Lawliss, and Beate Jensen. Contact Jon Bachman, [jbachman@stratfordhall.org](mailto:jbachman@stratfordhall.org); call (804) 493-1972; visit [stratfordhall.org/event](http://stratfordhall.org/event)

**November 13–14, 2014. “Olmsted’s Legacy in the South,” the Southern Garden Heritage Conference,** the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens. Frederick Law Olmsted is considered to be the father of American landscape architecture. Presentations will relate to FLO and how his vision has influenced present day landscape architecture. Visit [botgarden.uga.edu/eventdetails](http://botgarden.uga.edu/eventdetails)

**Upcoming SGHS Annual Meetings:**

**May 15–17, 2015. Nashville, Tennessee.** Meeting headquarters at the Nashville Marriott.

**April 21–24, 2016. Charleston, South Carolina.** Meeting headquarters at the Francis Marion Hotel.



## Clermont Lee.....(continued from page 1)

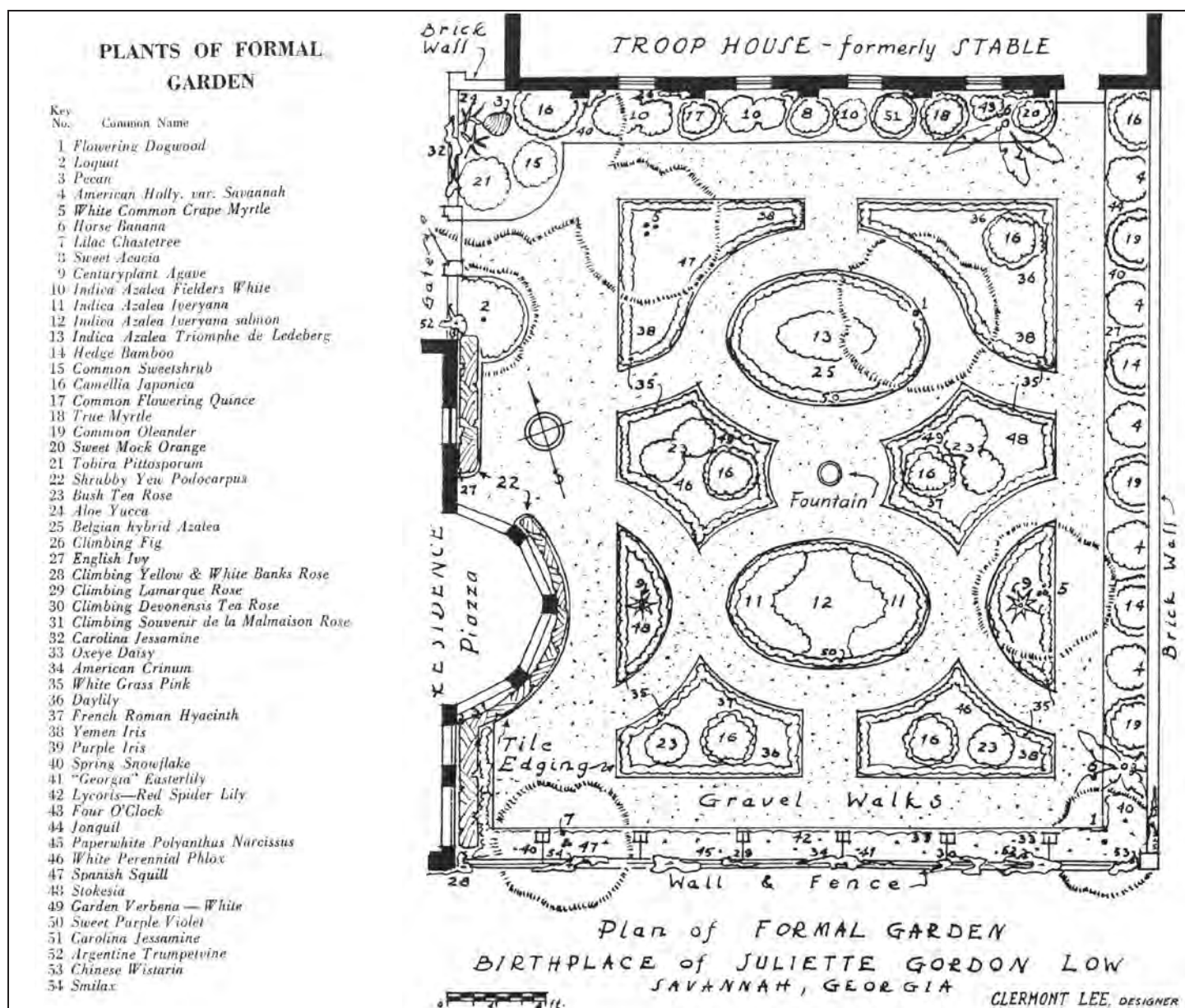
Lee to assist him in designing federal housing projects in Savannah and Brunswick. Because of wartime labor shortages, she noted on one occasion during World War II that she had a work crew of fifty black women and one male tractor driver.

Her career took a turn to historic gardens in the 1940s. A family friend requested she draw plans for a small garden at their plantation, Hofwyl-Broadfield in Brunswick Georgia, based on ca. 1910 photographs. It was her first foray into re-creating a garden that had previously existed. Local poet, author, and historian Laura Palmer Bell, and the Georgia Historical Society then requested Lee make measured drawings of ten Victorian gardens in Savannah fearing they would become lost to neglect. Additionally, the Colonial Dames of America had just purchased the historic Andrew Low home in Savannah and asked Lee to develop a historically correct

planting plan for the formal gardens. These commissions confirmed her belief that detailed research on antebellum plants and planting styles needed to be undertaken. She researched over thirty books on plantings and garden styles in order to provide for the Low home as authentic a period garden as possible. After almost ten years Clermont Lee left the Sea Island Company to set up her own practice in 1949, thereby becoming the first female professional landscape architect in private practice in Savannah.

For the remainder of her career, Lee continued to be involved in historic landscape reproduction, research, and maintenance. She was a leader, a pioneer if you will, in championing accurate gardens for historic homes, despite the simplified Colonial Revival viewpoint in favor at the time. She provided a historically correct garden to complement the 150 year-old Owens-Thomas

(continued on page 4)



## Clermont Lee.....(continued from page 3)

House on Oglethorpe Square in Savannah. Later, she provided appropriate designs and planting plans for the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, and the Green-Meldrim Mansion. She provided oversight and maintenance for the Owens-Thomas gardens for almost 15 years. She also worked outside of Savannah, consulting on the Chief Vann residence and the New Echota Cherokee capital in north Georgia for the Georgia Historical Commission, as well as developing a master plan for the Jekyll Island historic village.

So, why was this landscape architect called a Saint of Savannah's Squares? What could she possibly have to do with squares that had been part of Oglethorpe's original plan for Savannah since the 1700s? In the mid-twentieth century Lee was recreating historic landscapes for beautiful historic houses. At that time the squares

were seen as a remnant of old Savannah, but not really *historic*, not worthy of city funding, and were considered dangerous after dark. Squares that had existed for over two hundred years were suffering from neglect; they had become jumbles of pathways, playgrounds, deserted wells, utility poles, and chain link fencing. Weeds grew along the curbing; petty thieves hid amongst the overgrown plantings at night.

In the early 1950s Mills B. Lane, Jr., the president of Citizens and Southern Bank, and his wife, were very concerned at the loss of historic integrity in the northeast section of Savannah. They were buying and renovating historic properties, and asking Clermont Lee to design appropriate landscapes for them. But even more importantly, Lane wanted to work alongside the city to develop plans to renovate the squares and stop their deterioration. From 1951 to 1972 Clermont Lee developed and oversaw the renovation of five of Savannah's squares, Warren, Washington, Greene, Troupe, and Madison, and the installation of new landscape plans.

Her designs to preserve and restore the sanctity of the squares brought her into conflict with the city. The city wanted drive-through lanes installed for emergency crews and buses to cross the middle of all squares. Lee, ever the crusader and pioneer, discovered the companies that controlled the bus lines were at the base of the complaints. The turning radius of the antebellum squares was too tight for the length of the buses to turn easily. Lee suggested rounding the curves of entry into the squares, rather than destroying the squares with drive-through lanes. After several rancorous meetings, this suggestion was adopted by the city, thus retaining the squares intact today. The squares Lee designed remain with little change, a true oasis for the surrounding residential neighborhoods and visitors. She introduced simple, strong designs, with a variation of materials and ground forms, making each square reflect its own special character. For example, her notes for Troup Square indicate the removal of a vandalized central playground; the closing of an existing fire lane; the design and installation of a sundial garden focal point; and the installation of new low edging walls, benches, lighting, and plantings. It is highly recommended to stroll through one of Lee's squares today to experience her clear, timeless design, appreciating the fact that these designs are forty to fifty years old.

Clermont Lee did not just work on historic recreations or downtown square rejuvenations; she was also commissioned to develop designs for modern commercial and residential landscapes. Her drawings, located at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah, are indexed and fascinating to research. The meticulous quality of her renderings and papers from 1940 through



Courtesy of Juliette Low Birthplace

During the 1950s, Clermont Lee designed gardens for several of Savannah's most prominent historic homes, including the Andrew Low House, the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, and the Green-Meldrim mansion. This aerial view of the Juliette Low garden was taken around 1956.



1996 attest to a long and remarkable career. Some examples of Lee's commercial designs include planting plans for many museum sites and churches, like the Ships of the Sea Museum and St. John's Episcopal Church. Fortunately some of her landscapes still exist intact today, a noteworthy point considering the fragility of a planned landscape.

Lee was especially active in the prosperous neighborhood of Ardsley Park, first developed in 1910, but mostly built later in the 1930s-1950s. Ardsley Park was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. Lee's drawings for residential landscapes in this



Photos courtesy Ced Dolder

Lee designed this focal point for Troup Square, with her quirky sense of humor, depicting turtles quietly carrying the weight of time on their backs.

area date from the mid-1950s through the 1970s. One particular existent landscape in Ardsley Park is on an unusual three-sided lot, shaped almost like a peninsula. Her solution for this property was a series of breaks, screens, and rooms that gave the entire visual space cohesion. A recent visit to this property shows that an originally well-conceived landscape can continue in maturity as an example of good, timeless design.

Clermont Lee, one of the few women active in the field of landscape architecture in Georgia ca. 1950, was anxious to have her profession legitimately recognized locally. The relatively new field of landscape architecture had a professional organization founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), with only one woman among its founding members, Beatrix Farrand. Clermont Lee joined the ASLA in 1950. Although encouraging registration, the ASLA does not license landscape architects. That is done by individual state legislatures. In 1958, Clermont Lee worked in conjunction with Dr. Hubert Owens, then dean of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Georgia, to establish the Georgia State Board for Registration of Landscape Architects. The first four people to be registered included both Dr. Owens as the first and Clermont Lee as the fourth, and as the first woman. Interestingly, the next 125 registered were male civil engineers, alarmed that certified landscape architects could take their work. Lee continued on the Georgia Board for three years.

In Georgia, landscape architects had numerous hurdles to overcome. For many years, and for whatever reason, members of the ASLA were not allowed to advertise, creating a professional handicap. Traditionally, the few jobs available were awarded to male landscape architects. Often word of mouth or speaking engagements for garden clubs were a woman's only means of recognition. Clermont Lee achieved remarkable success given the obstacles she faced. Again and again, she proved her professional and personal determination and pioneering spirit in her long career of

*(continued on page 6)*



Courtesy Ced Dolder

Lee's designs are timeless, even in maturity.

more than sixty-five years. She not only made history for women in the landscape profession, but also had a lasting impact on the character of Savannah's historic landscape environment. Clermont Lee died in Savannah on June 14, 2006.

*[Ced Dolder, retired from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, has researched Clermont Lee for over 15 years, beginning with a historic context report on the accomplishments of women in the built environment, completed for the Georgia National Register in 2008.]*

## Clermont Lee's Historic Landscape Projects

- 1943: Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, Brunswick, GA**  
Developed planting plan for small fenced, cut-flower garden  
Owner had family photos, ca.1910, of plantation, later donated to GA State Museum
- 1944: Georgia Historical Society Collection, Mrs. Laura Palmer Bell**  
Measured drawings of remaining parts of more than ten old Savannah downtown gardens  
Donated plans copies to Georgia Historical Society  
(See GA Historical Quarterly 9/1944, pp 196-212)
- 1946: Colonial Dames of America, GA Chapter Headquarters Andrew Low House, 329 Abercorn St., Savannah**  
Designed front garden planting plan
- 1951:** Prepared landscape construction plan, rear courtyard  
Donated plans and files to Colonial Dames, 4/1989
- 1954: Juliette Gordon Low National Girl Scout Center**  
Plans for design and planting for a new formal period garden
- 1978:** Revised planting plan
- 1998:** Inventoried existing plants
- 1954: Owens-Thomas House, 124 Abercorn Street, Savannah**  
Formal garden created in 1820 English-American style, supervised maintenance of garden for fourteen years
- 1994:** Consulted with curator and supervisor regarding garden's research and establishment.  
Donated plans and files to Museum
- 1955: New Echota Cherokee National Capitol, GA Historical Commission**  
Consulted with archaeologist on-site  
Prepared reports and correspondence
- 1957: Chief Vann Residence, Spring Place, Murray County, GA Historical Commission**  
Consulted with archaeologist  
Developed landscape planning and landscape construction plans
- 1957: Isaiah Davenport House, State St., Savannah, GA**  
Prepared landscape plan and wall detail, later revised by others
- 1957: Midway Congregational Church, Midway, GA, ca. 1792**  
Proposed landscape plan for grounds, not executed
- 1958: Fort McAllister, Ogeechee River, Bryan Co. Georgia Historical Commission**  
Consultation and correspondence with Colonel Julian, regarding volunteer live oaks on site
- 1961-70: Mills B. Lane, Jr., (CEO of C & S Savings and Trust, Savannah)**  
Property renovations in NE quadrant of old Savannah  
Provided numerous plans and supervision of landscape installations at: 24 Habersham St; 417-423 and 502-510 E St. Julian Street, 425 E. Bay St.; 12, 14, 17 Price Street; 418 and 500 block East Bryan Street; 21-23, 31 Houston Street; 535 East Congress Street
- 1960: St. Johns Episcopal Church Mall, (former Macon St.,) Savannah**  
Developed planting plan for mall
- 1976-78:** Prepared period planting plan for 1855-1861 parterre garden; installed Rector substituted with non-period plantings
- 1963-4: Ft. Pulaski National Monument, Cockspur Island**  
Correspondence and consultation for planting new visitors' center
- 1963-72 Savannah Squares, Park and Tree Commission, Savannah**  
Renovated five squares in old Savannah, including sprinkler systems  
Work subsidized by Mills B. Lane Foundation or Lane Enterprises  
Donated all plans to Commission, 1985, GA Historical Society Library
- 1963: Warren Square, Habersham Street, Savannah**  
Replaced sand square with plantings, added walks, benches, lighting and plantings, installed barriers to prevent drive through for fire lane
- 1964: Washington Square, Houston Street, Savannah**  
Fire lane closed, used North Carolina bluestone for paving, initiated the use of different paving materials, all city squares have water and cisterns installed. Installed new walks, benches, lighting, and plantings
- 1967-8: Greene Square, Houston Street, Savannah**  
Original huge cistern caved-in, designed and installed shoring. Fire lane closed; installed new walks, benches, lighting and planting.
- 1969-70: Troup Square, Habersham Street, Savannah**  
Removed central vandalized playground, closed fire lane, installed armillary sundial, new walls, benches, lighting, plantings
- 1971-72: Madison Square, Bull Street, Savannah**  
New walk pattern with offset sitting areas and connecting walks at curbs, new benches, lighting and planting
- 1970: Chieftains Museum, Major John Ridge Home, Rome, GA**  
Consultation and written report to Rome Junior Service League for grounds treatment of historic site
- 1971: Battersby-Hartridge House, 119 E. Charlton Street, Savannah**  
Ca. 1852 garden, consulted with owners, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Livingston, Plans for retention of garden, including trees
- 1972: Mills B. Lane IV, 321 Barnard St., Savannah**  
Prepared utility and planting plan for renovation of property
- 1974: Ships of the Sea Museum, (former Waring residence,) 3 W. Perry St., Savannah**  
Prepared plans for Waring Memorial Garden, tenant courtyards and off-street parking area
- 1979-81: Savannah Victorian District Design Guidelines**  
NPS, GaDNR, & Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc  
Developed and wrote above guidelines suggested vernacular yard plans  
Compiled "Landscaping" and "Plant Materials" for guideline's appendices
- 1980: Olin Smith Fraser, Sr., 208 Court St., Hinesville, GA, client**  
Designed planting plan for residence area of historic **Bacon-Fraser Residence**, ca. 1839
- 1983-4: Wild Heron, Grove Point Rd., Savannah**  
Consultation regarding appropriate boundary plantings for the 17<sup>th</sup> century residence of Dr. & Mrs. J. Erich Schweistris, current owners
- 1989: Champion-Harper Fowlkes House, 230 Barnard St., Savannah**  
Provided grounds consultation and report for the ca. 1844 building, now headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia



## In Print

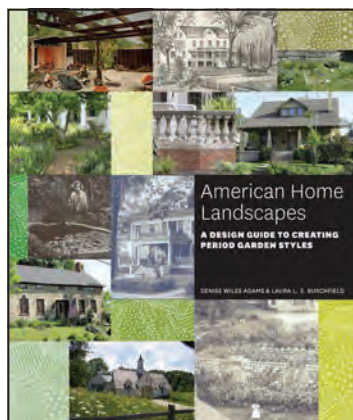
***American Botanical Paintings: Native Plants of the Mid Atlantic***, edited by Bonnie S. Driggers. Lydia Inglett Publishing; hardcover with dust jacket, 144 pages | ISBN: 978-1-938417-11-5 | This limited printing is available through Star Books for \$39.95 plus shipping. Order at [starbooks.biz](http://starbooks.biz)

This stunning book for artists and gardeners, produced by Botanical Artists for Education and the Environment (BAEE), was more than three years in the making, and contains sixty reproductions of original paintings and drawings of plants and forty original paintings of butterflies, moths, and other pollinators. Each plant is briefly described with its habitat, and includes relevant information about the plant family and ways in which Native Americans or early settlers used the plants. For plants unsuitable for home gardens, their environmental importance is mentioned, such as food and habitat for birds and animals. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be used to support native plant education, conservation, and horticulture. Publication costs were covered by donations, including a grant from the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA). For additional information about BAEE, visit [www.baeecorp.org](http://www.baeecorp.org).



***American Home Landscapes: A Design Guide to Creating Period Styles***, by Denise Wiles Adams and Laura Burchfield | Timber Press; hardcover, 304 pages | ISBN-10: 1604690402 ISBN-13: 978-1604690408 | List price \$39.95

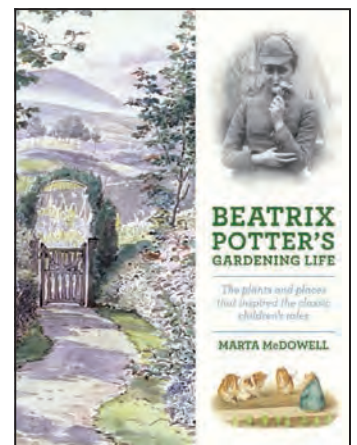
The authors present a lavishly illustrated history of how the design and constructed features of our yards — fencing, paving, furniture, etc. — have changed over the past 400 years. They link past with present, too, offering advice to modern gardeners in their first chapter, “So You



Want to Design a Historic Landscape,” and including case studies throughout the book. Maybe best of all, though, are the many illustrations and plans drawn from a wealth of historic sources. It is one thing to read about what gardens were like in the past, but actually seeing some of them — and the gardeners who made and loved them — is endlessly fascinating.

***Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Classic Children's Tales***, by Marta McDowell | Timber Press; hardcover, 340 pages | ISBN-10: 1604693630; ISBN-13: 978-1604693638 | List price \$24.95

This is a beautifully illustrated book you can enjoy and learn from even if you only look at the pictures. You'll want to read it, though, because the story of Potter's life and gardening as told by Marta McDowell — author of the superb *Emily Dickinson's Gardens* — is richly rewarding. Born in 1866, Potter was a shy girl with a love of nature who grew up to chart her own path, self-publishing her first book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, becoming a celebrated author and preservationist, marrying at 47, and gardening with enthusiasm. In the second half of her book, Marta reconstructs a year in Potter's gardens based on her letters, books, sketches, and watercolors. I was especially happy to learn that she loved heirloom plants and grew many of heirloom bulbs: winter aconite, snowdrops (“the flower Beatrix most often mentions in her letters”), ‘Cloth of Gold’ crocus, crown imperial, daffodils (including Lent lily and ‘Butter and Eggs’), hyacinths, tulips, the native English bluebells, bearded iris, peonies, lilies, and dahlias. Although the hero of her best-loved book is a rabbit — and the bad guy was the gardener — clearly Potter was one of us. (Read the *New York Times* interview of Marta McDowell, with a photo of her holding one the popular European ‘Deuil du Roi Albert’ dahlias, which was introduced in 1936.)



[The *American Home Landscapes* and *Beatrix Potter* books are recommendations from Scott Kunst of Old House Gardens – Heirloom Bulbs; [oldhousegardens.com](http://oldhousegardens.com)]

# Exhibition Review

## TAKING ROOT: The Summer Brothers and the History of Pomaria Nursery

“Taking Root,” an impressive exhibition devoted to the horticultural efforts of the Summer family and their now legendary Pomaria Nursery near Newberry, South Carolina, is on view through the summer at the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina. It closes on 20 September, when the university’s A. C. Moore Herbarium hosts a complementary symposium, “Plants and Planter: Henry William Ravenel and the Convergence of Science and Agriculture in the 19th Century South.” Southern Garden History Society members who heard James Kibler speak at the 2009 annual meeting in Camden and remember reading his article, “On Reclaiming

a Southern Antebellum Garden Heritage: An Introduction to Pomaria Nurseries, 1840-1879,” (*Magnolia*, Vol. X, No. 1, Fall 1993), will rightly recognize his scholarship as the genesis of the exhibition. In this

instance he served as a co-curator with Dr. Kajal Ghoshroy and Dr. Edward Puchner of the McKissick Museum, who contributed their own particular expertise to this appealing and important show. Mr. Kibler and David Shields, a historian of Southern agriculture, were the principal speakers at the opening reception on 18 June, with attendees filling the seats and standing along three sides of the lecture hall.

For visitors, whether learned or lay, the exhibition provides a valuable introduction to the extraordinary energy and enterprise of the Summer family and the nursery, established in 1840, that provided all manner of plants, vines, shrubs, and trees to gardeners throughout the South and to some in other parts of the nation. Henry Summer (1809-1869), the eldest of four brothers, amassed a valuable library of works in natural science, geology, anthropology, and horticulture, including John James Audubon’s *Birds of America*, which were utilized by his siblings. With the Rev. John Bachman, he was a founder and first secretary of Newberry College. William Summer (1815-1878), the longest-lived of the brothers, was a man of wide interests and achieved fame not only

for his success as a nursery owner and cultivator of fruit trees well-suited to our soils and climate, but also as a gifted writer and editor. Articles and essays written at Pomaria appeared in his catalogues, issued from 1852-53 to 1878, in newspapers and periodicals of the day, and in agricultural journals including the *Southern Agriculturalist* and *The Farmer and Planter* that he co-edited. His desk is featured in the exhibition together with a selection of original letters and copies of the 1872 and 1878 nursery catalogues.

Adam G. Summer (1818-1866) was a man of like interests, the editor for a time of the *Palmetto State Banner*,

*South Carolinian*, and *Southern Agriculturalist*, and the owner of Ravenscroft, a plantation where certain offerings of the Pomaria Nursery were cultivated. In 1857 he sold Ravenscroft to William Summer and relocated to newly-purchased

lands near Ocala, Florida, where he pursued his long-held interests in livestock breeding and cotton cultivation at a plantation he aptly named “Enterprise.” Thomas Jefferson Summer (1826-1852) studied agricultural chemistry in the 1840s under Justus von Liebig at the University of Giessen in Hesse-Darmstadt, saw his research on the cotton plant published in 1848, and, on his return to South Carolina, undertook successful experiments in crop rotation and soil restoration on a farm of 155 acres in the few years before his death at the age of twenty-five.

The critical role in family operations exercised by Catherine Parr Summer (1823-1906), who had charge of domestic arrangements at Pomaria, cultivated kitchen, herb, and flower gardens and gained renown for the chickens, turkeys, geese, guinea fowl, peacocks, and ducks she raised in the plantation poultry yards, suggests that “Brothers” might well be replaced by “Siblings” in the exhibition title.

On display in a large rectangular gallery, the exhibition opens with a series of biographical panels and related historic artifacts and continues in a thematic fashion addressing aspects of the nursery and plantation history.



Photograph of William Summer flanked by two hand-colored lithographs by Redouté of roses grown and sold at Pomaria.



The curators drew from private collections, including those of Mr. Kibler and the present-day owners of Pomaria plantation, and the collections of the South Caroliniana Library and the University of South Carolina. Among these are nearly two-dozen specimens from the university's A. C. Moore Herbarium that represent plants grown and sold at the Pomaria Nursery. The most important documents, the three known surviving nursery ledgers, are opened to pages of especial interest and matched in poignancy by a painting of a Bachman Pear, a William Summer introduction, which hung at Pomaria, and a watercolor of the Anderson Apple by Jarvis Van Buren, lent by Georgia College, Milledgeville. The two works reflect William Summer's life-long interest in fruits, and apples in particular. At its height of operation, the Pomaria Nursery offered some 1,500 varieties of hard and soft fruits. The hundreds of roses offered by the nursery are represented by five hand-colored lithographs by Pierre Joseph Redouté that picture specific roses grown and sold at Pomaria. Three hand-colored engravings by Redouté represent camellias marketed by William Summer at his nursery. Two Audubon engravings, "Bachman's Finch on Pinckneya" and "Mourning Dove with Stewartia," likewise reflect important historical associations. Agricultural operations at Pomaria and the nursery's dependence on slave labor are also represented in the exhibition.

In 1840, at the formal outset of his operations, William Summer invited customers to visit Pomaria. "The Nursery is situated 1½ miles south of Pomaria Depot, on

the Greenville and Columbia Rail-Road; and, upon being advised by letter, I will always have a carriage awaiting the arrival of my visitors, and will entertain them in rural style at my house during their stay." One aches now to travel in time and take the nurseryman up on his offer. A visit to "Taking Root: The Summer Brothers and the History of Pomaria Nursery" is the next best option. The nursery operations at Pomaria were in near ruin at the end of the Civil War, and the splendid new facilities in Columbia, valued at \$114,000, were completely lost. William Summer renewed his life's work at Pomaria after the war and brought it again to success in the 1870s. But fate ended the enterprise in 1879, after his death.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the McKissick Museum has printed a handsome, free brochure on which plants sold by or associated with Pomaria are noted, described, and located on a map of Columbia and, separately on the reverse side, within an outline of the state of South Carolina. These compilations were made by Mr. Kibler in December 2013. On my visit to Grovewood Plantation at Eastover on the 19th of June, I saw that the magnolias next door at Wavering Place (formerly Magnolia Plantation), believed to have been supplied by Pomaria, still hold pride of place.

Davyd Foard Hood  
Isinglass  
Vale, North Carolina

## *Internship in Historic Landscape Preservation*

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, a program of the National Park Service, is currently accepting applications for its 2014–15 Fall and Winter Internship Program. The Olmsted Center promotes the preservation of cultural landscapes through research, planning, stewardship, and education. Based at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, Massachusetts, the Center provides cultural landscape technical assistance to parks and historic properties throughout the Northeast.

The internship program provides participants with opportunities to broaden their understanding of landscape preservation practice through project experience, educational programs and self-study. Working alongside Olmsted Center staff, interns assist with preparing cultural landscape inventories and reports, developing preservation maintenance plans, documenting existing conditions, creating site plans, and participating in field projects to improve the condition of cultural landscapes.

A six-month internship is currently available. Preferred candidates will have a demonstrated interest in cultural

landscape preservation and management, an ability to work as part of a team, and education and skills in: landscape architecture, horticulture, history, historic preservation, landscape maintenance, graphic illustration and mapping, writing, and computer skills including familiarity with Microsoft Word, Excel and Access, AutoCAD, and/or Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Also desired are proficiency in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator and a willingness to travel. Internships extend from September 29, 2014 to March 13, 2015. For more information on Olmsted Center projects, visit: [nps.gov/oclp/](http://nps.gov/oclp/)

To apply, email your dates of availability, a résumé, and a one- to two-page cover letter that describes your interest in the position and your career and educational goals. Also include contact information for two references. U.S. citizenship required. Please do not send portfolios until requested. Submit by **July 28, 2014** to [margie\\_coffin\\_brown@nps.gov](mailto:margie_coffin_brown@nps.gov). For more information, contact Margie Brown at (617) 223-5116.

# LALH NAMES 2014 PRESERVATION HERO:

## *Craig Barrow III Shares Ancestral Landscape for Education, Preservation, and Research*

The Library of American Landscape History named Craig Barrow III of Savannah, Georgia, as the 2014 Preservation Hero for his extraordinary stewardship of his historic family property, Wormsloe Plantation, for forging creative research partnerships to explore the land's multiple dimensions and values, which include ecology archaeology, geology, and landscape history, and for establishing mechanisms to support continuing research and preservation.

Barrow began his journey to innovative leadership in historic landscape preservation in 1978, when he became the ninth generation of his family to inherit Wormsloe Plantation, a 278-year-old agricultural property on the Isle of Hope, near Savannah. The plantation's coastal marshes and inland forests offer not only restorative beauty but also rich habitat for migrating birds and butterflies, and layers of human history, from Native American shell middens to Confederate earthworks and formal gardens.

These diverse resources make Wormsloe Plantation "one of the most significant historical, archaeological, and natural sites in Georgia and the entire Lowcountry," according to environmental historian Paul S. Sutter. Its historical integrity exists largely because of long-term family stewardship, beginning with Barrow's ancestor Noble Jones, who founded

the plantation in the 1730s. When Barrow and his wife, Diana, started planning for the property's future, they tapped environmental educator Sarah Ross, then of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and Daniel Nadenicek, dean of the

College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia.

One result was Barrow and Ross founding the Wormsloe Institute of Environmental History to conduct interdisciplinary research, in 2007. Six years later, Barrow authorized the family's Wormsloe Foundation to donate fifteen acres to create the University of Georgia Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe. Researchers have access to more than 1,200 acres comprising the original plantation and 10,000 historic records documenting the landscape at the university's De Renne Library, founded by members of Barrow's family.

Says LALH Executive Director Robin Karson, "Craig has creatively aligned the resources of diverse organizations to uncover every layer of human and ecological history in this property, preserve them, and share the research with the public. His thoughtful leadership has opened new paths for historic landscape preservation."

"With all the great people deserving of this honor I am humbled that I was chosen, which surely will assist me in my stewardship of Wormsloe," Barrow says. A profile of Barrow in the 2014 issue of *VIEW*, the LALH annual magazine, tells more of his story. Southern Garden History Society members attending the 2014 Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia (February 28-March 2) visited Wormsloe Plantation.



Founded in 1992 in Amherst, Massachusetts, LALH fosters understanding of the fine art of landscape architecture and appreciation for North America's richly varied landscape heritage through LALH books, exhibitions, and online resources. For more information, visit [www.lalh.org](http://www.lalh.org).



Isle of Hope coastal marshland adjacent to Wormsloe.



Wormsloe Gate at entrance to plantation entrance lined by hundreds of live oaks.

Photos from: [savannah.fotof1days.com](http://savannah.fotof1days.com)



# Garden Club of America Honors Staci Catron

Cherokee Garden Library Director, and recent President of the Southern Garden History Society, Staci L. Catron, was inducted as an Honorary Member in The Garden Club of America (GCA) May 9, 2014. GCA is an affiliation of 200 member clubs with over 18,000 members, but only 75 outstanding professionals and volunteers may hold Honorary Membership at one time. Honorary Members are men or women of distinction who are not already members of any GCA club. They are professionals of established reputation in horticulture or conservation, or individuals who, because of their knowledge and interest in the purposes of The Garden Club of America, are considered valuable members.

Serving as Director of the Garden Library since 2000, Catron's professional accomplishments and collaborations have gained her a national reputation as a scholar, a landscape historian, and an ardent preservationist. In addition to the daily demands of her work at the Garden Library, she is a prolific writer, and a sought-after speaker. She currently serves as coordinator of the Historic Landscapes Initiative for the Garden Club of Georgia, and on the Garden Club of Virginia's Research Fellowship Committee.

The Garden Club of America has consulted with Staci

Catron about their own historic garden library, and invited her to speak in 2013 at The Grolier Club in New York in support of the GCA exhibition there, *Gardening by the Book: The Garden Club of America Celebrates One Hundred Years of Collecting*.

Past GCA honorary members from SGHS have included Dean Norton (Mount Vernon), Peter Hatch (Monticello), and William Welch (Texas A&M University).



Staci Catron

## James M. Garner (1950-2014)

It is with considerable sadness that we report the accidental death of Jim Garner, husband of former Southern Garden History Society board member Susan Hitchcock. Jim obtained graduate and postgraduate degrees from Auburn and the University of Georgia and taught for a number of years at Horry-Georgetown Technical College in South Carolina. He had extensive exposure to public gardens throughout North America and the United Kingdom. Besides being a frequent contributor to gardening and trade publications, his accomplishments also included awards from the International Plant Propagators Society, and a 2005 commendation by the South Carolina House of Representatives. His Georgia roots eventually lured him to Milledgeville, Georgia, when, in 2008, he became Executive Director of Lockerly Arboretum. His vision, knowledge, and professional

experience vastly improved the institution and led to substantial clarification and improvements in its mission, master plan, and programs. Jim was a consummate horticulturist and his talent, kindness, and bright smile will be deeply missed. There will be a memorial fund established at Lockerly Arboretum in Jim's name.





Southern Garden History Society

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## 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 recipients who have rendered outstanding service to the society. Nominations may be made at any time by any member. The award 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. 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. 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. The scholarship provides a waiver of registration fees plus \$500 to assist with travel and lodging.

*Details, requirements, and directions for submitting applications are posted on the SGHS Web site: [www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org). For those without internet access, a copy of this document can be mailed or faxed. Contact Peggy Cornett, Magnolia editor.*

## 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 2014-2015 year. Membership categories:

<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Sustainer</b>	<b>\$125</b>
<b>Institution or Business</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Joint</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>\$15</b>

For more membership information, contact:  
Virginia Hart, Membership Coordinator  
Post Office Box 15752  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27113  
Phone (336) 770-6723

Email: [membership@southerngardenhistory.org](mailto:membership@southerngardenhistory.org)  
**Memberships can now be made electronically on our Web site!**  
[www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org)

*Deadline for submitting articles for the Summer issue of Magnolia is September 15, 2014.*

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