



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

# Magnolia

Publication of the Southern Garden  
History Society

Vol. XXVIII

No. 2

Spring 2015

## “Harmony, Hills, and History” Presented Nashville’s Finest

*Reviewed by Perry Mathewes, Purcellville, Virginia*

The thirty-third annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society convened May 15-17, 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee. Activities were planned in both historic Franklin and Nashville following the theme of “Harmony, Hills, and History.” Our host committee, headed by Justin Stelter joined by Ben and Libby Page, organized a packed schedule that showcased many of the region’s best gardens and landscapes.

The meeting started Friday morning with a lecture by Dr. Carroll Van West. His talk began with an overview of the middle Tennessee region and how the topography and history influenced both designed and vernacular gardens. Following this general introduction, Dr. Van West focused on several landscapes in the area, many of which would be featured in the next two days of touring: The Hermitage, Glen Leven Farm, Centennial Park, Cheekwood, Carnton Plantation, and the Pontotoc Farm.

Following the lecture, the group boarded buses and headed to The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson. We were welcomed by Andrew Jackson Foundation President Howard Kittell as we gathered in the visitor center auditorium. He provided a general history of the site, explaining that the garden today is not the original and reflects the second version made late in Jackson’s life. In 1998 a tornado hit the site, destroying over 1,800 trees, including many of the red cedars fronting the house. These cedars were replanted, and in the last seven years there has been a renewed effort to renovate the garden. Society members were then invited to tour the house, a special exhibit, *Born for a Storm*, focusing on Jackson’s elections, and of course the handsome gardens, which featured chestnut roses in bloom along with sweeps of foxglove, sweet William, and rose campion. Near Jackson’s tomb were southern magnolia trees grown from cuttings of the magnolia planted at the White House



SGHS members strolled through the flower gardens at The Hermitage.

during his administration.

The group then headed to Glen Leven Farm, a sixty-five-acre working farm now owned by the Land Trust for Tennessee. The farm was first established by Thomas Thompson in 1790 through a land grant. SGHS members were greeted on the back porch of the 1857 Federal-style house with Greek Revival details and given a general overview of the site’s history and gardens. Members

*(continued on page 3)*

### *Inside this Issue*

Pg. 6 *The Arcadian Gardener*

Pg. 7 *20th RSGL Conference*

Pg. 8 *In Print*

Pg. 10 *Bartram Trail Dedication in LA & GCV  
Research Fellowship Program*

Pg. 11 *George McDaniel and Drayton Hall*



# CALENDAR

**September 3-13, 2015. Bartram Trail Dedication in Louisiana.** The Friends of LSU Hilltop Arboretum, in cooperation with the Bartram Trail Conference, will commemorate the 240th anniversary of naturalist William Bartram's visit to Louisiana. Featured will be the dedication of five historical markers and a rededication of one originally placed in 1976. See details on page 10. Visit: [www.lsu.edu/hilltop](http://www.lsu.edu/hilltop)

**September 11-12, 2015. 9th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello,** Charlottesville, Virginia. This family-friendly event celebrates Thomas Jefferson, who championed vegetable cuisine, sustainable agriculture, and plant experimentation by featuring heirloom fruits and vegetables, organic gardening, seed saving, and more. Co-hosted by Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. Visit: [www.heritageharvestfestival.com](http://www.heritageharvestfestival.com)

**October 1-3, 2015. 20th "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" Biennial Conference,** Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Conference is co-sponsored by Old Salem Museums & Gardens; Reynolda House Museum of American Art; and the Southern Garden History Society. See preview article on pages 7-8. For program and registration information, contact Sally Gant, [sgant@oldsalem.org](mailto:sgant@oldsalem.org) or visit: [www.oldsalem.org/landscapeconference](http://www.oldsalem.org/landscapeconference)

**October 1-25, 2015. 39th Annual Fall Tours,** hosted by the Preservation Society of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina. Visit the private interiors of some of the nation's most exceptional houses and gardens. Visit: [www.TheFallTours.org](http://www.TheFallTours.org)

**October 8, 2015. The Chip Calloway Lecture Series** presents Pam Beck, award-winning free-lance garden writer, photographer, and lecturer at Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden in Kernersville, North Carolina. Visit: [www.cienerbotalanicalgarden.org](http://www.cienerbotalanicalgarden.org)

**October 10, 2015. 100th anniversary King's Nursery,** Tanaha, Texas. Speakers include SGHS board member Greg Grant. Contact: (936) 248-3811.

**October 14, 2015. Cherokee Garden Library Fortieth Anniversary Lecture and Celebration,** Atlanta, Georgia, features celebrated author and gardening superstar Ken Druse on his book *Natural Companions: The Garden Lover's Guide to Plant Combinations*. Visit: [www.atlantahistorycenter.com/cherokeegardenlibrary](http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/cherokeegardenlibrary)

**October 23-24, 2015. 27th Annual Southern Garden Symposium and Workshops,** St. Francisville, Louisiana. Featured speakers include LSU Ag Center's Allen Owings (*Promising Plants for Southern Landscapes*), award-winning floral designer Scott Hasty, and noted author Larry Mellichamp (*Native Plants of the Southeast*). This popular symposium offers gardening lectures and workshops as well as engaging social events and venues such as historic Rosedown Plantation, Hemingbough, and the garden ruins of Afton Villa. For registration information, contact Lucie Cassity, (225) 635-3738, [lucieccassity@bellsouth.net](mailto:lucieccassity@bellsouth.net) or visit: [www.southerngardensymposium.org](http://www.southerngardensymposium.org)

**January 12-13, 2016. Landscape Design School,** Course I, Founders Hall, Charles Towne Landing, South Carolina. Featured speaker is SGHS president Susan Haltom, author of *One Writer's Garden*, *Eudora Welty's Home Place*. Contact: [Susanmcleodepstein@gmail.com](mailto:Susanmcleodepstein@gmail.com)

## Upcoming SGHS Annual Meetings

**April 21-24, 2016. 34th SGHS Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.** Meeting headquarters at the Francis Marion Hotel. More details will be available in the next issue of *Magnolia* and at [www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org)



## "Harmony, Hills, and History".....(continued from page 1)

were invited to explore the house, the small arboretum surrounding the house, an education garden, a honey bee sanctuary, and a planting of hops. The arboretum featured several large trees including American yellowwood, sugar maple, ginkgo, and black walnut. We could also peek into the two-acre vegetable garden now being used by The Hermitage Hotel restaurant as a source of heirloom vegetables.

Members next convened at the home of Mrs. Walter Robinson, Jr. for cocktails, dinner, and, of course, a tour of her garden. The 1928 Beaux Arts Revival home features an older section well to the rear of the house complete with traditional roses and boxwood plantings. Surrounding the house is a more recent garden, designed and installed in 1988-89 by her son-in-law and SGHS honorary board member Ben Page. A nice mixture of ferns, hostas, Japanese maples, an impressive shagbark hickory, and a bottlebrush buckeye almost in bloom created a cool and inviting space for guests to gather for cocktails before feasting and music occurred under a tent on the front lawn.

The second day of the meeting began with a presentation on Carnton Plantation by Society board member Justin Stelter. He detailed the rise and fall of the garden in the nineteenth century (see *Magnolia*, Winter 2015 for a full article) and the more recent efforts to bring the garden back. He highlighted various historic plant collections and displays including daffodils, species hostas, peonies, espaliered pears, and roses.

The second lecture of the morning was by Robert Hicks, best-selling author and founding chairman emeritus of Franklin's Charge, an organization dedicated to reclaiming, securing, and preserving the Franklin battlefield in Williamson County. In an entertaining story-telling style with numerous humorous asides and anecdotes, he detailed the story of the battle of Franklin, the more recent efforts to preserve its history, and why its importance still matters.

The group then headed to Franklin to visit Carnton Plantation. Upon arrival, the entire group posed for a tintype photograph on the back porch of the house before exploring the house, garden, and Confederate Cemetery established by the McGavock family following the battle that had enveloped their home. The garden featured numerous vegetables including lettuce, potatoes, cardoon, tomatoes, and beans. Peonies, roses, sweet Williams, poppies, and larkspur filled other parts of the garden, and members marveled at the

formally sheared red cedars and massive Osage orange.

After their Carnton visit members traveled to Meeting-of-the-Waters, an 1810 home built by Thomas

(continued on page 4)



Guests gather for cocktails at the home of Mrs. Walter Robinson, Jr.



Guests tour Carnton Plantation flower garden with meeting coordinator Justin Stelter.



Tintype (ferrotype) of SGHS members at Carnton Plantation. This type of photographic process was used primarily in the 1860s. Photo by Blake Wylie; [www.BlakeWylie.com](http://www.BlakeWylie.com)



## "Harmony, Hills, and History" . . . . . (continued from page 3)

Hardin Perkins, which was one of the houses on the larger Perkins family property. This now private home gets its name from the fact that it sits at the confluence of the Big Harpeth and West Harpeth rivers. A large oval drive flanked with tulip poplars leads the house. To the rear a brick walk circumnavigates the lawn, and clematis, roses, and peonies were in bloom. Several stops along the walk provided pastoral views of the neighboring hay fields. To the east of the house is a formal garden with boxwood, hydrangea, gardenia, and daylily. Just beyond is a path leading to a promontory providing a view of the two rivers coming together.

It was then on to Walnut Hill, another home built on the larger Perkins estate constructed ca. 1857 by Nicholas Perkins' daughter, Sarah Agatha, and her second husband, Bradford Ellis. The current owners have continued efforts started by their predecessors and taken the restoration to "the next level" by removing more modern additions and restoring some of the mid-nineteenth-century elements. The garden contains several original features such as a barrel vaulted root cellar and domed cistern.

Terraces and a summer house are more modern elements in the garden, all being influenced by historic features of nearby places. The site overlooks a two-acre field of lavender comprising of three different varieties: Munstead, Hidcote, and Grosso.

Members finished their day with a visit and dinner at Pontotoc Farms. Upon arrival, we were greeted by a team of Percheron horses drawing a wagon, which escorted the buses to the main house of the farm. The home was built ca. 1854 and moved to this site from another farm about twenty miles away. The various outbuildings on the farm were similarly salvaged from other sites. Members were



Pontotoc Farm Percheron team.



Robert Hicks chats with a member at the Carnton Plantation.



Walnut Hill tour with meeting co-coordinator Ben Page.



Meeting finale at Pontotoc Farm.



encouraged to explore the farm and home featuring several great examples of sporting art before settling down to dinner and music under a back lawn tent.

### Sunday Optional Tour

*Reviewed by Peggy Cornett, Magnolia editor*

The meeting's optional Sunday tour highlighted a number of exquisite private gardens in the city of Nashville. First stop was the Tennessee Executive Residence, where members were greeted by First Lady Crissy Haslam, who is actively involved in the restoration and development of this 1931 'beaux arts'-style country estate originally built by the Ridley Wills family. Mrs. Haslam has embraced the latest passion for farm-to-table healthy cuisine by creating an intensive, well-designed kitchen and flower garden modeled on early American precedents. The formal garden has been restored to its previous floral design and an elegant greenhouse, similar to the original one on the Wills property, greatly expands the garden's seasonal impact. Two rare weeping elm trees highlight an enclosed "secret garden" for the Governor and his young family. SGHS members enjoyed the opportunity to not only wander the property but also explore the lower floor of the Executive Mansion.

The Beaman Garden was created in the 1940s when one of the few remaining nineteenth-century Nashville plantations was subdivided. The renovated home sits above a shady stream bed at the entrance to the property's natural landscape. The present owners purchased two contiguous properties in order to preserve open space and habitat. An expansive, manicured lawn at the rear of the home is bordered by a mixture of native and ornamental grasses, shrubs, and perennials, which provide flowers, fruits, seeds, and some bird and animal friendly environments.

Members enjoyed box lunches at the Garrison residence. The original ca. 1942 home and garden has undergone a significant, three-phase master plan over several years. The resulting landscape includes a small garden and a semi-circular performance lawn where the family shares their love of music with friends and the community. As SGHS members sat along the arched stone wall surrounding the lawn a light shower sent many under an elegant covered arbor adjacent to the garden pavilion

and family room. The owners' collection of enchanting garden art included a magnificent wolf and a trio of whimsical baboons created from woven wire.

The ca. 1810 Craighead house featured a more intimate, vernacular garden, where the owners, Steve and Allen Sirls-DeCuyper, have collected many unusual flowers, vegetables, and woody plants. Their stewardship of one of Nashville's earliest plantation houses is evident through their love of gardening and dedication to historic preservation. We were invited to relax and wander through the seamlessly divided garden rooms of this shady, richly-layered landscape, dominated by towering hackberry trees.

*(continued on page 6)*



The Peggy Martin Rose, a Katrina Hurricane survivor discovered by Bill Welch, growing at Carnton Plantation.



Governor's Mansion.



## "Harmony, Hills, and History" . . . . . (continued from page 5)

Sunday's final destination—the city home of Ben and Libby Page—acquainted us with their lifetime of adventures in gardening and landscape design. In the 1990s they purchased this condemned, four-square, ca. 1808 residence—once briefly the home of Minnie Pearl in the early 1950s—in order to have room for a larger garden with southern sun. After major renovations to the house and expansion of the garden area, landscape architect Ben Page created a master plan that would continue to evolve to the present day. His first idea, for an English-style, grandmother's garden, changed dramatically after the SGHS annual meeting in Camden, South Carolina, when the Pages purchased a small farm in Pulaski, Tennessee and

moved their maintenance-oriented perennial border to their country property. Today the overall design is more in keeping with early Southern dooryard gardens, featuring brick walks and a fountain, a small herb garden, billowing 'Annabelle' hydrangeas, and impressive specimen big-leaf magnolias, *Magnolia macrophylla*. Ever the gracious hosts, Ben and Libby served champagne with delicious, southern-style cheese wafers and delighted us with tales of their gardening escapades. A perfect ending to our grand tour of Nashville's finest.

*Photos of the SGHS meeting by Jeffry Abt, Peggy Cornett, and Perry Mathewes*

## The Arcadian Gardener

By Greg Grant, Center, Texas

Those who know me are aware that I have had a lifelong love affair with flower bulbs. I was even chastised in kindergarten by Miss Gilbert at *Peggy Ann's* school for including tulips in all of my artwork. I went on to play a little Dutch Boy, costume and all, with a cast of other "Dutch" children in front of a big windmill at our school play that year. Miss Gilbert strongly suggested that I diversify into other flowers, and that I did!

Thanks to the many old home places in Arcadia, I found numerous assorted heirloom *Narcissus* and zero tulips. That's because the climate in most of the South works primarily on a wet-dry cycle like the Mediterranean region instead of a warm-cold cycle like Holland.

Instead of digging into the many pass-a-long *Narcissus* I've uncovered in my rude ancestral hamlet here, let's start with what a *Narcissus* is and isn't.

*Narcissus* are members of the amaryllis family (Amaryllidaceae), my favorite family, and are native to Europe and the Mediterranean. There are over fifty species, but not all are adapted to the mild winters and hot summers in the South.

Botanically they all belong to the genus *Narcissus*, named for the son of Cephissus and Liriope who couldn't get over himself in Greek mythology. This is why a botanist refers to them all as *Narcissus*. Unfortunately this is an oversimplification for the diversity most gardeners come in contact with.

The American Daffodil Society ([www.daffodilusa.org](http://www.daffodilusa.org)) refers to them all as daffodils, which once again is a deceptive oversimplification. They even divide them into fourteen different categories, which in my humble opinion is an over-complication for the average gardener.

Making matters even more confusing are those in some parts of the South that refer to them all as jonquils or "johnny quills" as one of my aunts used to say.

If you are going to be one of my horticulture students,

however, there are three fairly distinct categories that I recommend to learn and use. The first category is "narcissus." These belong to or descend from polyanthus flowered *Narcissus tazetta*. They have white or creamy white, powerfully fragrant flowers in clusters and tend to bloom early in the season. They have very small cups in the flowers, which is where the species name *tazetta* comes from.

The second category is "jonquil." They belong to, or are hybrids of, *Narcissus jonquilla*. These have clusters of small yellow flowers and a strong sweet fragrance. They too have very small cups. The species names *jonquilla* is a corruption of the *Juncus* genus because of their similar rush-like foliage.

The final category is "daffodil." They hail from *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. These are mostly yellow with one flower per stalk, a large trumpet in the middle of the flower, and little to no fragrance.

By following these simple rules, you will be able to confidently classify any *Narcissus* into one of three categories.



A display of Jonquils, Tazetta Narcissus, and Daffodils from the Arcadian garden.



# Learning from the Past, Planting for the Future

20th Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes, October 1-3, 2015 at Old Salem Museums & Gardens

By Martha Hartley, Old Salem, Winston-Salem, NC

The garden is pleasure... sustenance... memory... inspiration... and more. This has been celebrated by the Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes since its founding in 1979, with a notable outgrowth being the Southern Garden History Society in 1982. The conference's mission has always been to discuss historical horticulture, garden history, and landscape restoration in the South. The twentieth conference will be held October 1-3, 2015 at Old Salem Museums & Gardens where the keynote address by Peggy Cornett will provide a retrospective of the conference and its beloved Flora Ann Bynum. The prelude to Thursday evening's lecture will include music for the garden on the Tannenberg organ by Old Salem's Scott Carpenter and a festive opening dinner with Flora Ann's favorites (*think*: ham biscuits, squash casserole, pimento cheese, shrimp & grits, cucumber salad, pocketbook rolls, sonker pie)!

This year's conference will recognize several major themes in the Southern landscape that have gained attention and momentum in the years since the event's initiation. Many of the presenters are authors of garden publications, which will be available for sale and signing during the weekend.

Session One on Thursday afternoon will explore stories and meanings in heirlooms, beginning with Ira Wallace of Louisa County, Virginia's Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. She will consider the role of families in preserving seeds with examples from her seed cooperative's collection. Old Salem Horticulture staff members Eric Jackson (vegetables and grains) and Ellen McCullough (herbs and flowers) will share the dynamics of their work in the historic Moravian gardens. The Southern Heirloom Apple Tree Project, initiated last fall at Reynolda Gardens, will continue its mission of planting apple trees, here in Old Salem with Scott Sipes, Old Salem Horticulture's fruit specialist, and with conference attendee participation. Created by Margaret Norfleet Neff and Salem Neff of Beta Verde, LLC in Winston-Salem, the project was inspired by Lee Calhoun, who will share his Southern heirloom apple wisdom prior to the planting.

"Art in the Garden" will be viewed through time and various media in Session Two on Friday morning. Paintings, drawings, and maps of Moravian landscapes from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries will be showcased by Old Salem Curator and Director of Collections Johanna

(continued on page 8)



Gari Melchers (American, 1860-1932) *The Crimson Rambler*, ca. 1915, Oil on Canvas, Private Collection.



Ploughboy Jarvis and potatoes, 1904, James Monroe Jarvis Photographic Diary, Hauser Family Collection

## Learning from the Past.....(continued from page 7)

Brown. The works are currently on exhibit in the Blum House and may be seen following lunch at the Tavern. A glimpse at a rare ca. 1900 photographic diary by Forsyth County, North Carolina farmer, seed developer, photographer, and journalist James Monroe “Ploughboy” Jarvis will be offered by Martha Hartley, Director of Research and Outreach for Old Salem Restoration. Landscape Historian Judith Tankard will then illuminate the morning with the work of women landscape architects as an introduction to Reynolda House’s new exhibit “The Artist’s Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920” for viewing on Saturday. The midday lunch break affords opportunity for touring, and Old Salem Horticulture staff will be in the gardens to welcome conference participants.

Friday afternoon’s Session Three is devoted to the African legacy in the American landscape and will be held in St. Philips Moravian Church (known historically as the African Church in Salem). Michael W. Twitty, Culinary Historian of African and African American Foodways, will lead off with an immersion in the history of Southern foodways for considerations on reconstructing the gardens of the enslaved, 1760-1860. He will be followed by Chef Matthew Raiford (Culinary Institute of America) who also organically farms his Brunswick, Georgia family farm (from 1874) with his sister Althea. This self-styled “CheFarmer” will examine traditions in African American farming and their origins. The day will conclude with a “covered dish” supper on the grounds of St. Philips featuring signature traditional dishes prepared by local African American residents.

First thing Saturday morning, conference participants are encouraged to stop by the Cobblestone Farmers

Market in Old Salem--North Carolina’s only fully vetted, sustainable, producer-only farmers market, with the slogan “fresh, honest, local.” Session Four will then contemplate the early twentieth-century Southern landscape. Landscape Architect and Historian, Suzanne Turner will stroll us through restorations at The Havens’ Residence in Houston, Texas, and Cheekwood in Nashville, Tennessee, with lots of stories. Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer loved her garden in Lynchburg, Virginia, and author Jane Baber White will share her own experiences with the garden restoration and work there. To conclude the morning, another Virginia property will be presented, Belmont, home of artist Gari Melchers and his wife Corinne. This includes the historic house, outbuildings, studio and galleries, as well as the gardens. Beate Ankjær-Jensen is the cultural resource manager and has spent years restoring the gardens and landscape to the period when the couple lived at Belmont.

Lunch will follow and conference participants are invited to spend the afternoon at Reynolda House Museum of American Art and Reynolda Gardens where the exhibit “The Artist’s Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920” will thrill all. (We will see two Gari Melchers paintings during our visit to the exhibit at Reynolda.)

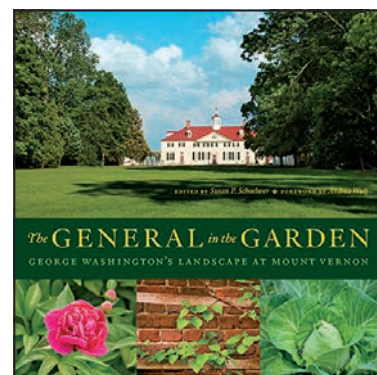
Enjoy new information from the historic Southern landscape in Winston-Salem this October. The Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes is co-sponsored by Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, and the Southern Garden History Society. For more information visit: [www.oldsalem.org/landscapeconference](http://www.oldsalem.org/landscapeconference) or call (800)441-5305 to register.

## In Print

***The General in the Garden: George Washington’s landscape at Mount Vernon***, edited by Susan P. Schoelwer, Senior Curator at George Washington’s Mount Vernon; foreword by Andrea Wulf | Mount Vernon Ladies Association, 2015 | hardcover, 208 pages | ISBN-13: 978-0931917486 | list price \$35.

This enlightening and handsomely illustrated introduction to George Washington’s landscape at Mount Vernon contains three essays by Adam T. Erby, Mount Vernon Assistant Curator; J. Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture; and Esther White, Director of Historic Preservation and Outreach. In “Designing the Beautiful: General Washington’s Landscape Improvements, 1784-

1787,” Adam Erby examines Washington’s critical role in developing Mount Vernon’s landscape, arguing that the general drew on British design sources and gardening manuals but adapted them to his own circumstances, creating a truly American garden. Our own Dean Norton, former SGHS president and long-time board member, traces the evolution of the estate’s landscape in his essay, “George Washington’s Gar-





dens: Under the Watchful Eye of the Mount Vernon Ladies.” Norton details the recreated gardens across the two centuries since Washington’s death from a horticulturist’s point of view, including the demise of the formal boxwood hedging and the radical changes to the Upper Garden. Esther White’s essay, “*Laid out in squares, and boxed with great precision*: Uncovering George Washington’s Upper Garden,” shows how groundbreaking archaeological methods facilitated the discovery of Washington-era garden beds and borders of flowers, shrubs, and vegetables in his upper garden—a remarkable find that yielded one of the most significant eighteenth-century garden recreations of our time. The book concludes with an informative, illustrated landscape guide to Mount Vernon’s gardens and groves, including valuable period plant lists, by Adam Erby.



***Epic Tomatoes: How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties of all Time***, by Craig LeHoullier | Storey Publishing, 2015 | hardcover, 256 pages | ISBN-13: 978-1-61212-208-3 | list price \$29.95

Craig LeHoullier, tomato advisor for Seed Savers Exchange, offers everything a tomato enthusiast needs to know about growing more than 200 varieties of tomatoes — from sowing seeds and planting to cultivating and collecting seeds at the end of the season. He also offers a comprehensive guide to the various pests and diseases of tomatoes and explains how best to avoid them. The book offers a detailed look at the specifics of growing tomatoes, with beautiful photographs and intriguing tomato profiles. In the last 30 years, LeHoullier has trialed more than 1,200 tomato varieties and has introduced more than 100 varieties to the trade. He lectures widely, from local Master Gardener groups to Monticello and Seed Savers Exchange. He’s one of the founders of Tomatopalooza, an event in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina.



***Edible Memory: the Lure of Heirloom Tomatoes and Other Forgotten Foods***, by Jennifer A. Jordan | University of Chicago Press, 2015 | hardcover, 328 pages | ISBN-10: 022622810; ISBN-13: 978-0226228105 | list price \$26

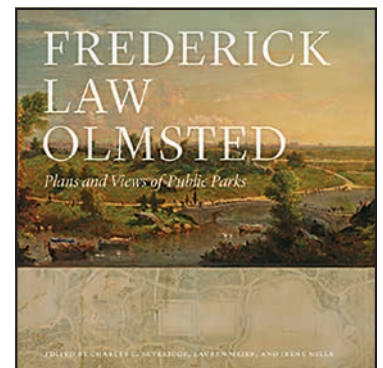
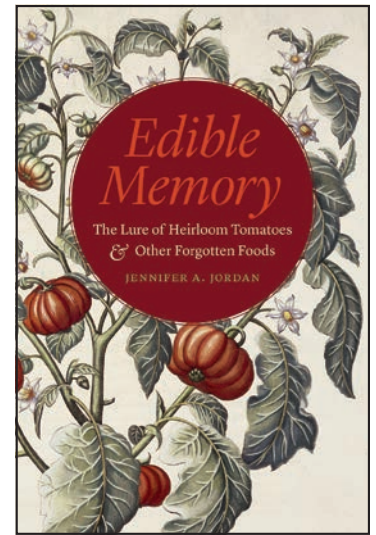


Jennifer A. Jordan examines the ways that people around the world have sought to identify and preserve old-fashioned varieties of produce. In doing so, the author shows that these fruits and vegetables offer a powerful emotional and physical connection to a shared genetic, cultural, and culinary past. From the farmers’ market to the seed bank to the neighborhood bistro, Jordan explores the history of foods that offer essential keys not only to our past but also to the future of agriculture, the environment, and taste. By cultivating these edible memories, Jordan believes we can stay connected to a delicious heritage of historic flavors, and to the pleasures and possibilities for generations of feasts to come.



***Frederick Law Olmsted: Plans and Views of Public Parks***, edited by Charles E. Beveridge, Lauren Meier, and Irene Mills | Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015 | hardcover, 448 pages, 129 color illus. | ISBN-13: 9781421410869 | \$74.95

This lavishly illustrated book reveals Frederick Law Olmsted’s design concepts for more than seventy public park projects through a rich collection of sketches, studies, lithographs, paintings, historical photographs, and comprehensive descriptions. Bringing together Olmsted’s most significant parks, parkways, park systems, and scenic reservations, this volume takes readers on a uniquely conceived tour of such notable landscapes as Central Park, Prospect Park, the Buffalo Park and Parkway System, Washington Park and Jackson Park in Chicago, Boston’s “Emerald Necklace,” and Mount Royal in Montreal, Quebec. Although most are located in Northern states, the book does cover a number of public parks in Louisville, Kentucky, including Cherokee, Iroquois, and Shawnee Parks, and Louisville Squares and Places.





# Bartram Trail Dedication in Louisiana

September 3-13, 2015

William Bartram, America's first native born naturalist, made a four-year journey from the Atlantic coast of the Carolinas to the Mississippi River, setting out in 1773. He recorded his observations of native people, plants, and animals in his journal, writing and drawing along the way. He reached Louisiana in 1775, a year before the American Declaration of Independence, twenty-eight years before the Louisiana Purchase, and thirty-seven years before Louisiana became the eighteenth state of the Union. He spent only a few months in Louisiana, and reached his westernmost point of exploration when he crossed the Mississippi to "Point Coupe," present-day Pointe Coupee. From this place he reversed his path, and arrived at his home in Philadelphia in early 1777. Bartram later organized and drew from his journal to publish *Travels* in 1791. The book found a significant readership in America and Europe, and is still in print today.

In 1976 the Bartram Trail Conference was established as part of America's bicentennial observance. The organization has erected markers at significant sites through eight Southern states Bartram traversed.

This September Louisiana will commemorate the



240th anniversary of Bartram's visit with five new markers and a rededication of one originally placed in 1976. Louisiana State University's Hilltop Arboretum has spearheaded the project in cooperation with the Bartram Trail Conference. Hilltop Director Peggy Coates, Michele Deshotels, Pam Sulzer, and SGHS board member Randy Harelson comprise the committee.

Dedication ceremonies to unveil the markers will take place over eleven days in September. SGHS board member John Sykes will kick off the Bartram commemoration on September 3 with a talk at the Old Governor's Mansion. The commemorations will conclude on September 13 with a Bartram lecture by Andrea Wulf, author of *The Founding Gardeners* and *The Brother Gardeners*.

- September 8: LSU Hilltop Arboretum (John Sykes speaking)
- September 9: Burden Museum and Gardens
- September 10: Mississippi River levee, Downtown Baton Rouge
- September 11: Plains Presbyterian Church, Zachary
- September 12: St. Francis Chapel, Pointe Coupee
- September 13: East Baton Rouge Public Library (Andrea Wulf speaking)

For more information visit the LSU Hilltop Arboretum Web site: [www.lsu.edu/hilltop](http://www.lsu.edu/hilltop)

Submitted by Randy Harelson, [rharelson@earthlink.net](mailto:rharelson@earthlink.net)

## The Garden Club of Virginia's Research Fellowship Program

By Karen Kennedy, Rieley & Associates, Charlottesville, Virginia

The Garden Club of Virginia has long been celebrated for its restorations of historic gardens and landscapes, conservation of natural resources, and educational and horticultural efforts throughout the Commonwealth. Approaching its twentieth anniversary is the GCV's lesser known but equally important Research Fellowship program. Prompted by the threat of the disappearance of historically significant yet undocumented landscapes, the GCV established a fellowship to record such landscapes through measured drawings, photographs, and written reports that examine the evolution of the landscape over time as well as its social and cultural context.

Two fellowships are offered annually to graduate students in landscape architecture or allied fields. Fellows

spend three summer months living in Virginia- gaining hands-on experience in the field of historic preservation and documentary research methods. Funded by proceeds from the annual Historic Garden Week, each fellow receives a stipend for their work as well as housing and research-related travel funds.

Implemented in 1996 under the direction of longtime GCV landscape architect, Rudy J. Favretti, the first fellowship was named in his honor. Years later, the GCV, buoyed by its first effort, created a second, named the William D. Rieley Fellowship after its current landscape architect. The Fellowship Committee, composed of GCV representatives as well as historians, horticulturists, and landscape architects, is responsible for selecting both the sites and fellows.

Sabine Hall near Warsaw was the inaugural site, where fellow Mario Herrada documented the grand terraced



garden laid out by Landon Carter, son of Robert "King" Carter. The following summer, Darrin Alfred studied the large formal garden at Eyre Hall, established by Thomas Eyre on the Eastern Shore, now beautifully restored by the current owner and descendant of Eyre.

Four fellows over a period of three years researched the landscapes of Upper and Lower Breemo and Breemo Recess, all owned by John Hartwell Cocke, a contemporary of Thomas Jefferson. Zachary Rutz traced the history of Stafford County's Chatham from the original 1666 land deed through its Civil War days, on through the 1920s creation of the gardens by Ellen Biddle Shipman, as documented by Frances Benjamin Johnston, to its current stewardship by the National Park Service.

Other notable fellowship sites include Tuckahoe in Goochland County, where Thomas Jefferson spent much of his boyhood; Staunton's Old Western State Hospital, the fifth oldest mental institution in the

country; Carter Hall in Millwood, built by Nathaniel Burwell, great-grandson of Robert "King" Carter; the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, the boyhood home of R.J. Reynolds; and the iconic George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria. Altogether, twenty-five historically significant sites have been documented since the inception of the program.

Southern Garden History Society members who have participated in this fellowship include: Andrew Kohr (2004), Penelope Heavner (2005), Karen Kennedy (2009), and Cheryl Miller (2014).

The reports and drawings are archived in the GCV's Kent-Valentine House library as well as the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center; they may also be viewed online at [www.gcvfellowship.org/archive.cfm](http://www.gcvfellowship.org/archive.cfm). It is the GCV's hope that these comprehensive records will serve as valuable resources for all future study of historic Virginia landscapes.

## George McDaniel and Drayton Hall

Society members attending next year's Charleston annual meeting are highly encouraged to visit Drayton Hall, the mid-eighteenth-century home of John Drayton and family. A planter of great means, Drayton built a house on the Ashley River suitable to his stature and which today survives as one of America's best examples of the influence of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. Drayton also understood the latest English tastes in landscape design, and his grounds reflected the naturalistic design themes then in vogue across the Atlantic.

Heading up activities at Drayton Hall (a National Trust property) for over a quarter of a century, George McDaniel, Ph. D., recently announced his departure as President and Executive Director. He will continue to serve, however, as President Emeritus and as a consultant regarding Drayton operations.

Many readers will be aware of Dr. McDaniel's work at Drayton Hall. Many also know the example he has set for all employed in the field sometimes termed "public history." This is most especially true for those seeking to establish bridges to the academic community, as well as to what might be termed the "site community" in the case of such properties as Drayton Hall. The author first came to admire Dr. McDaniel's abilities in conjunction with his research



George McDaniel

relating to the descendants of those once enslaved at Stagville Plantation near Durham, North Carolina, work undertaken in conjunction with his doctoral studies at Duke University.

Dr. McDaniel's achievements while at Duke and elsewhere in expanding our knowledge of the enslaved members of the plantation community, *and* of their descendants, have certainly had a substantial influence on the author and surely many others. (His book *Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture* is to be highly recommended.) Recent horrific events in Charleston have underscored the vital need to continue such research and to continue such bridge building.

Above all, George McDaniel's tenure at Drayton Hall has shown the merits of public history leadership by those with roots the academic community, a community sometimes offering limited access to "ordinary" individuals. Through scholarly attention to the sometimes less thoroughly studied assets of historic properties and museums, such leadership can open exciting new vistas via enhanced tours for daily visitors, school groups, Web site users, and more.

*Kenneth M. McFarland, Editor*







Southern Garden History Society

P.O. Box 15752

Winston-Salem, NC 27113

*Magnolia grandiflora* reproduced courtesy  
of Rare Book Div., Special Collections  
Dept., UVA Library.



## 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 August 31, 2015.*

### Officers

**President:** Carleton B. Wood,  
LaGrange, GA  
**Vice-President:** Susan Haltom, Jackson, MS  
**Secretary:** Mollie Ridout, Annapolis, MD  
**Treasurer:** Gail Griffin, Bethesda, MD

### Editor:

Peggy Cornett  
Monticello, P.O.B. 316  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
(434) 984-9816  
Cell (434) 465-5297  
[pcornett@monticello.org](mailto:pcornett@monticello.org)

### Editor:

Kenneth M. McFarland  
814 Marye Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
(540) 373-5029  
[kennethm.mcfarland@gmail.com](mailto:kennethm.mcfarland@gmail.com)

### Associate Editor:

Staci Catron  
Cherokee Garden Library, AHC  
130 W. Paces Ferry Rd., NW  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
(404) 814-4046  
[scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com](mailto:scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com)

### Book Review Editor:

Davyd Foard Hood  
Isinglass  
6907 Old Shelby Rd.  
Vale, NC 28168  
(704) 462-1847

## Board of Directors

Jeffrey Abt, Nacogdoches, TX  
Gordon Chappell, Williamsburg, VA  
Lee C. Dunn, Atlanta, GA  
Susan McLeod Epstein, Charleston, SC  
Greg Grant, Center, TX  
J. Randolph Harelson, New Roads, LA  
Perry Mathewes, Purcellville, VA

Lee Bynum Schwall, Winston-Salem, NC  
Justin Stelter, Franklin, TN  
John Sykes, Baton Rouge, LA  
Helen E. A. Tudor, Apalachicola, FL  
Jane B. White, Lynchburg, VA  
**Immediate Past President:**  
Staci Catron, Atlanta, GA

## Honorary Board Members

Jeff Lewis III, Athens, GA  
Kenneth M. McFarland, Fredericksburg, VA  
Ben Page, Nashville, TN  
Mary Anne Pickens, Columbus, TX  
Jane Campbell Symmes, Madison, GA  
William C. Welch, College Station, TX