



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

Magnolia

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Magnolias, Do or Die

Calder Loth, Richmond, Virginia

Southerners love magnolia trees, or at least we are to believe we are supposed to. The *Magnolia grandiflora* ranks among the nation's great native trees; more particularly they are a Southern icon. They identify a Southern locale because they don't grow happily north of the Mason-Dixon Line. We love them for their glossy emerald leaves and their huge, heavenly scented pale white blossoms. Catching the aroma of a magnolia flower on a muggy summer eve is a uniquely Southern sensual experience. Because of our love affair with these impressive trees, Southerners have determined that magnolias are an essential component of the setting of a historic landmark. Hence, the best way to honor a fine old house or public building is to adorn its grounds with magnolias, the closer to the building the better.

Perhaps the premiere example of this phenomenon of magnolia prettification existed until recently at the Virginia State Capitol in downtown Richmond. Capitol Square's layout is a remnant of an 1850s design by the Scottish landscape architect John Notman. Though complex, the scheme visually set off Thomas Jefferson's capitol. The capitol was expanded with wings in 1906. The original architectural rendering of the expansion shows how the building was to continue to be a dominant element in the Richmond cityscape. (*Figure 1*) Soon after the expansion, the Commonwealth's leaders determined that Jefferson's stately structure must be enhanced by magnolias. Obviously, white columns and magnolias made for an unbeatable Southern image, especially for a building that was once the Capitol of the Confederacy. Two magnolias were duly planted in front, and by the 1990s, they became a prodigious presence on Capitol Square, so much so that the capitol itself had all but vanished behind two huge green masses. (*Figure 2*) One of the magnolias eventually became diseased to the extent that it had to be removed. That left a disturbing asymmetry, so, with a

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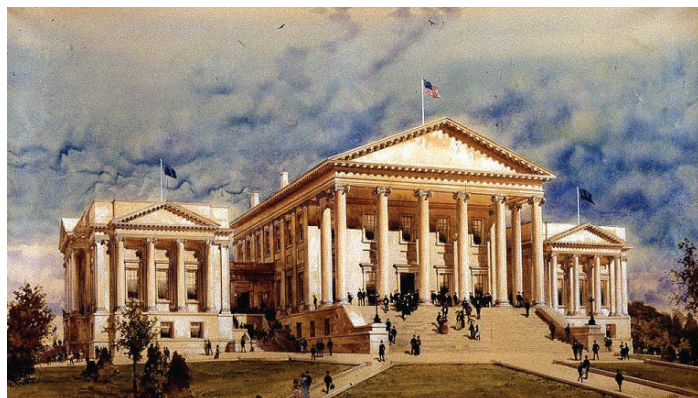


Figure 1, Architect's presentation drawing of the Capitol expansion (Virginia Museum of Fine Arts)



Figure 2, Virginia State Capitol in the 1990s

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CALENDAR

Please visit the SGHS Web site, www.southerngardenhistory.org, for a complete and more detailed calendar with the latest updates and links to individual Web sites.

September 13, 2012. "A Rich Spot of Earth:" Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello, Atlanta, GA. Cherokee Garden Library features **Peter J. Hatch**, who will discuss his fascinating new book, followed by book signing and reception. (404) 814-4046; atlantahistorycenter.com/cherokeegardenlibrary. Proceeds support the Cherokee Garden Library Endowment.

September 13-14, 2012. American Public Gardens Association, Green Buildings and Landscape Symposium at the Phipps Center, the "Green Heart of Pittsburgh," PA. These outstanding facilities, including their new Center for Sustainable Landscapes, built to achieve International Living Building Institute (ILBI) Living Building Certification. Highlights include sustainable sites, techniques, and a public gardens operational sustainability index. publicgardens.org

September 14-15, 2012. 6th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello, co-sponsored by Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, Charlottesville, VA. This family-oriented program on sustainable gardening, heirloom plants, seed saving, garden history, heritage foodways is held on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Featured speakers include award-winning author Joel Salatin and Joe Lamp'l, host of the PBS series *Growing a Greener World*. Visit: HeritageHarvestFestival.com.

September 14-15, 2012. Fall Native Plant Symposium, Highlands Botanical Gardens, Highlands, NC. For more information visit <http://highlandsbiological.org/native-plant-symposium/>

Through September 23, 2012. "Paradise Imagined: The Garden in the Islamic and Christian World," exhibition at Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD. Visit: www.thewalters.org

October 10, 2012. Rosemary Verey: Legendary Gardener, Chappaqua Public Library, Chappaqua, NY. **Barbara Paul Robinson** speaking on her personal experience as Rosemary Verey's gardener and her research for, *Rosemary Verey: The Life & Lessons of a Legendary Gardener*. Visit: gardenconservancy.org/events

October 12-15, 2012. 64rd Garden Writers Association Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ. Visit: gardenwriters.org.

October 12 & 13, 2012. 24th Annual Southern Garden Symposium & Workshops, St. Francisville, LA, features

Mount Vernon's J. Dean Norton and floral design instructor Lynette McDougald, Mississippi State University. Known for its engaging social events and historic venues as well as its lectures and workshops, this Symposium has become an annual tradition for garden enthusiasts. It includes tours of two private homes, Rosebank Plantation and Evergreenzine, for the Speakers' Gala and Saturday Tea respectively. Visit: southerngardensymposium.org.

October 12-14, 2012. Cultural Landscapes: Preservation Challenges in the 21st Century, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. This conference marks the 40th World Heritage Convention and the 20th Declaration on Cultural Landscapes by bringing together leading scholars and practitioners to examine five core themes concerning the concept, implementation, and management of cultural landscapes and historic urban landscapes. This interdisciplinary forum intends to map strategies for a 10-year action plan. <http://chaps.rutgers.edu/>

October 21, 2102. Charleston Horticultural Society Annual Fall "Gardens for Gardeners" Tour. Tour the resort island of Kiawah, 20 minutes south of Charleston. This self-guided walking and driving tour offers some of the Lowcountry's most beautiful private gardens. Purchase tickets at: charlestonhorticulturalsociety.org; or call (843) 579-9922.

October 24, 2012. Mary Palmer Dargan, ASLA, Lifelong Landscape Design, Atlanta, GA. The lecture will be followed by a book signing and reception in McElreath Hall, Atlanta History Center. Reservations required; call (404) 814-4046; email: scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com.

February 27, 2013. J. Ryan Gainey, The Gathered Garden, Atlanta, GA. The lecture will be followed by an exploration of a botanical art display, book signing, and reception in McElreath Hall, Atlanta History Center. Reservations required; (404) 814-4046; email: scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com.

May 3 – 5, 2013. "Someone's Been Digging in the Dirt," 31st Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, Lynchburg, Virginia. Highlights include diverse speakers and visits to Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, the beautiful gardens at the 200 year old former plantation, Pharsalia, the restored garden of Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer, and the antique roses at the Old City Cemetery. The meeting extension will tour eight private gardens and include lunch at Lynchburg Grows, an award-winning Urban Farm located in historic greenhouses. Visit: www.southerngardenhistory.org or contact Jane White: janebaberwhite@gmail.com

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heavy heart, the Governor granted permission to remove the other aged tree.

Some considered the loss of the capitol's magnolias a tragedy. Magnolias, however, are not rare. At the time of the Commonwealth's arboreal amputation, Capitol Square was nurturing as many as thirty-two magnolias. Yet, with the grinding up of the last of the pair of *grandifloras*, Jefferson's stately capitol at last was released from seventy-plus years of enshrouding. So impressive was this renewed architectural prospect that any tears for the lost magnolias quickly evaporated. Indeed, the capitol was subsequently the subject of a \$100,000,000 restoration and expansion, which included a new entrance on Bank Street to an underground visitors' center. The entrance was strategically placed so that visitors were forced to view the capitol on a diagonal, its best angle, and perceive it as Jefferson intended—as the temple on the hill. (Figure 3)

We see another striking before-and-after contrast at Brandon, a well-known James River plantation house. Brandon is one of the country's most articulate examples of Anglo-Palladian architecture. The seven-part composition originally served as an architectural screen or backdrop for an extensive formal garden extending to the river—a classic eighteenth-century layout. At some time in the nineteenth century, this relationship between house and garden was compromised by a dense planting of boxwood, crepe myrtles, and, of course, magnolias, all close against the north front of the house. (Figure 4) By the 1990s, the trees and shrubbery had grown so large and thick, that the house was all but invisible—all year round. (Magnolias, of course, are evergreen.) When made aware of this loss of interplay of architecture and landscape, Brandon's chatelaine, Mrs. Robert (Linda) Daniel, who maintains the plantation's famous gardens to impeccable standards, immediately decided that the offending flora must go. Moreover, she declared that she would welcome some light in the north-facing rooms. The resulting defoliation finally revealed one of the country's most important works of colonial design. (Figure 5) The scraggly magnolias are

(continued on page 4)



Figure 3, Virginia State Capitol today.



Figure 4. Brandon, Prince George Co. Va. 1980s view.



Figure 5. Brandon following tree removal.

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not missed.

A contrast to the bold surgery at the Virginia Capitol and Brandon is the lack of any such action at the Rotunda at the University of Virginia. The Rotunda is the focal point of Jefferson's "Academical Village," a World Heritage Site. The Rotunda was gutted by fire in 1895 and was rebuilt within its walls by architect Stanford White. As part of the rebuilding, White added terraces flanking the north side of the Rotunda and connected them with colonnades to the original south terraces facing the Lawn. The resulting courtyards flanking the Rotunda were subsequently planted with magnolias, four in each space. The magnolias, of course, grew to considerable size, creating large mounds of green pushing against the building and terraces. (*Figure 6*) The trees' shallow roots

and perennial dropping of non-decomposing leaves have made the otherwise inviting courtyards unusable for most events. The trees also started interfering with the Rotunda's foundations. Moreover, with the current re-roofing of the dome, the magnolias inhibit the erection of necessary scaffolding. Add to all of this the fact that several of the trees are in declining health and have lost much of their aesthetic quality. These combined factors led to the decision to remove the magnolias.

The decision to eliminate the Rotunda magnolias generated unexpectedly overwhelming (if not hysterical) opposition from the university community. The issue became so emotionally charged that the university administration ordered a hold on any removal. This decision came despite the fact that authorities of

Jeffersonian architecture stated that the trees were inappropriate and should go. Thus, irrationality prevailed in an institution where reason is supposed to be the guiding principle. The view of the Rotunda shown in the 1828 Tanner engraving offers some idea of the clear, clean image we would have of the Rotunda without its enveloping magnolias. (*Figure 7*) We are told that tree experts are to be engaged at some point to determine how long the trees can survive. Meanwhile, the scaffolding company will just have to work around them.

An extreme case of questionable magnolia sentimentality can be observed across the ocean at Mon Repos, a villa formerly owned and used by the Greek royal family on the island of Corfu. Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, was born in the house. Magnolias grow well in the warm Mediterranean climate and are not unusual in the region. However, one wonders about what is so special about Mon Repos's geriatric, hideously deformed specimen marring



Figure 6, Rotunda, University of Virginia.

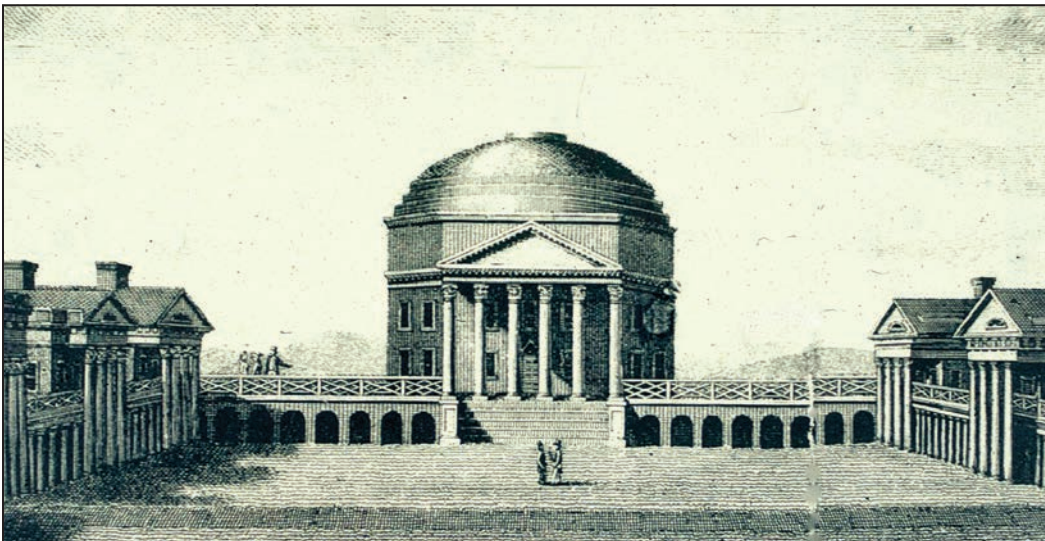


Figure 7, Rotunda; 1828 Tanner engraving (detail).

the view of the handsome façade of this historic dwelling. (Figure 8) Was it personally planted by a member of the royal family? Does any historical association outweigh its complete loss of visual quality? Cannot seeds or cuttings be taken from it to produce offspring that can be planted there (or better elsewhere)? Finally, why was that particular species planted there in the first place?

We move now to another Virginia shrine, Stratford Hall, birthplace of Robert E. Lee, on Virginia's Northern Neck. Stratford's 'Great House' is set on the edge of a promontory with an axial vista to the Potomac River to the north. The house is within a formal courtyard defined by brick dependencies marking the courtyard's four corners. When viewed from the land or southern approach, the house was meant to be a dominant architectural element with open space on either side to herald the panorama to the Potomac. But how could you have the birthplace of the great Southern general devoid of magnolias? Hence, dwarfing the house are giant magnolias towering over the west side. (Figure 9) And in order to make sure you see no hint of the Potomac or even the North dependencies, screens of tall American boxwood flank the mansion. All of this makes for a scene antithetical to mid-eighteenth-century aesthetics. Because of our innate reverence for all things living, especially venerable trees and boxwood, it may be some time before Stratford's decision-makers come to any consensus on editing the landscape.

In summary, of course we all love grand old trees, magnolias included. Removing any one of them requires painful decisions. Yet, when dealing with the management of a historic landscape or garden, we must always ask what is supposed to be doing the speaking. Our great landmarks are few

and far between; trees are plentiful. Should an unqualified reverence for trees inhibit our ability to experience a great landmark as it was meant to be perceived?

Calder Loth is Senior Architectural Historian of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. His article is based on his presentation, "Arborocideaphobia: The Challenges of Managing Historic Landscapes and Gardens," delivered June 2, 2012 at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society in Richmond, Virginia.

All photographs courtesy of the author.



Figure 8, Mon Repose, Corfu, Greece.



Figure 9, Stratford Hall, Westmoreland Co. Virginia. South front.

1810 Catalogue of Plants in the Botanick Garden of South Carolina

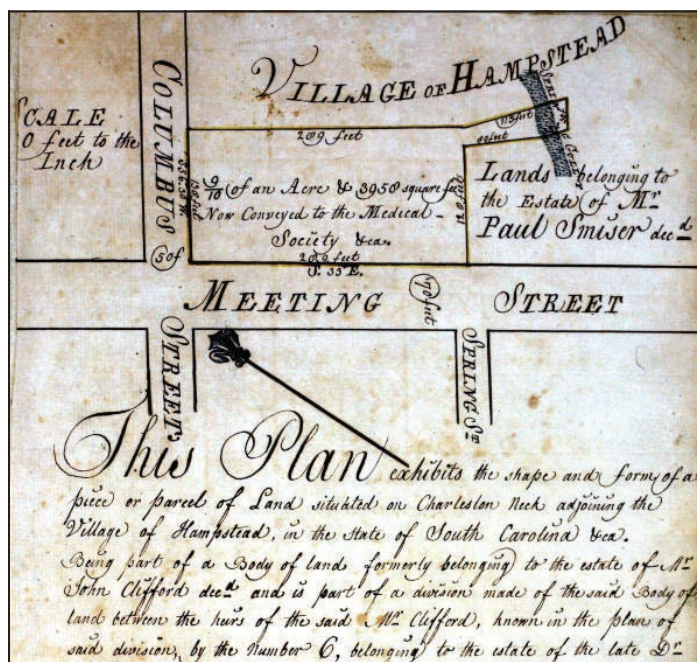
By Susan Epstein, Charleston, South Carolina

Recently, the Southern Garden History Society put a scanned copy of the *1810 Catalogue of Plants in the Botanick Garden of South Carolina* on its Web site. The original document is owned by the Missouri Botanical Garden and was purchased in 1988 from a bookseller in London for \$40.

Charleston is a city of firsts, so it should be no surprise that the Botanic Garden and Society established in 1805 by the Medical Society of South Carolina was the first in the United States, well ahead of the U.S. Botanic Garden, which was established in 1820. The founders of the Botanic Garden thought it would elevate the medical community and the entire state as evidenced by the advertisement listed on the second page of the catalogue. It states, “The advantages resulting from the establishment of Botanick Gardens in the United States, are so numerous that they have received a patronage commensurate with their importance.”¹

The catalogue is fourteen pages long and lists 494 plants that were being cultivated at the time. The actual plant list begins on page 5 with the first column being a numerical number for each plant. The second column lists the common or “vulgar” name in alphabetical order. The third column lists the genus and species, followed by the class and order. The fifth column lists the duration of each plant or whether it was an annual, biennial, or perennial (with “do” for ditto). The last column lists the plant’s country of origin. What is astonishing is that the garden was only nine-tenths of an acre, yet they listed 494 plants with several being large trees. One possible assumption is that many of the plants listed must have been dried specimens or plants that were grown at different times throughout the duration of the garden.

A majority of the plants could have been used for medicinal, culinary, or other useful purposes and they were arranged in the garden according to the Linnaean classification system. For example, the first plant on the list has the vulgar or common name of Alligator Pear-Tree, our modern day avocado, and we know from modern advertisements, avocado is a super-food with numerous benefits. *Hibiscus esculentus* is our modern-day okra. Pat Harpell, President of the South Carolina Herbal Society, shared the fact that “many of the plants are still actively being used by herbalists to help heal everything from burns and wounds to headaches and digestive disorders. *Agave virginica*, Virginian aloe or false aloe, was used as a laxative to settle spasms in the intestines. It was also commonly known as the rattlesnake master, and the root was used to treat poisonous snake bites. *Arctium lappa*,



Medical Society of South Carolina Minutes [Volume 1789-1810, page 58], Waring Historical Library, MUSC, Charleston.

common burdock, was used for skin conditions and as a blood purifier to help clear toxins and support the liver. *Sideroxylon lycioides* [*Bumelia lycioides*], iron wood, was used for tools and handles. *Tussilago farfara*, coltsfoot, was used to help build a stronger more disease-resistant respiratory system. *Leontodon taraxacum*, dandelion, supports the well-being of the liver and kidneys. *Allium sativum*, garlic, was used as an antibiotic. The list goes on and on but ends with *Achillea millefolium*, yarrow, the great wound herb that balances blood flow.”

The garden was located in Hampstead Village, now known as the East Side of Charleston, at the corner of Meeting and Columbus Street. The property was originally donated to the Medical Society in 1792 by Mary Savage, the widow of Dr. Richard Savage. It took another thirteen years, however, before they could or would support the garden. The area was enclosed, and plants and seeds were collected for the garden.

An advertisement in the Charleston Gazette on August 16, 1805 requested plants, seeds, and “as much information respecting each as can be given....as to the nature of the soil...the roots...name...whether the flower or fruit, the leaf, stem, bark, or root that had been remarkable for any peculiar property.... By a rule of the Company, persons who present plants or seeds of scarce plants shall be entitled to visit the garden gratis for a term in proportion to the value of their present”² This same advertisement requested that since “many plants are now in flower, and the season therefore unfavorable for transplanting them, we request that such may be set apart until the winter; but that specimens be now taken up with

the flower perfect and dried between sheets of paper, that their description may be more easily ascertained.”³

The garden opened in October 1805 and its motto was “*Hic Argus Esto, non Briareus*,” “Employ the eyes of Argus, but not the hands of Briareus.” In particular, parents were instructed to prevent their children from touching or handling any of the plants and no dogs were allowed. Rules of the Botanick Garden were advertised

and in theory the garden was to be self-supporting with membership subscriptions, four dollars for one person, eight dollars for two, and so on. An important benefit was that members were entitled to take home plants, seeds, roots, and bulbs as they became available.

On October 18, 2012 the Medical University of South Carolina is dedicating the Porcher Medicinal Garden, which is based on the book, *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests* (1863) by Dr. F. P. Porcher. The plants in the garden are identified in his book as having medicinal value and being locally viable, or about 50 of his 439. In addition, this past spring MUSC started an Urban Farm on their campus for the purpose of educating students, employees, and patients of the hospital.

According to *A History of Horticulture in America*, The Botanic Society hoped to expand their plans and in 1807 they held a lottery. They intended to make their garden the “repository of everything, useful, new and curious in the world.”⁴ Around 1808-1809, Philip Noisette was hired as the director, but by this time, the garden was beginning to experience serious financial difficulties. Subscribers were slow to pay, or did not pay at all, and plants that could have been sold as revenue were given to the subscribers. Thus, with no financial support for the garden and poor soil, the Medical Society of South Carolina was forced to close the Botanick Garden, selling what plants they could and the property for \$2,500 in 1812.

[To view the scanned catalogue, visit southerngardenhistory.org and navigate to the resources page.]

- 1 *Catalogue of Plants in the Botanick Garden of South-Carolina*, published by E. Moford, Willington & Co., 1810, p. 2.
- 2 *City Gazette*, published as *City Gazette And Daily Advertiser*; August 20, 1805; Volume: XXIV; Issue: 5603; p. 2; Charleston, South Carolina.
- 3 IBID
- 4 Ulysses P. Hedrick, *A History of Horticulture in America before 1860*, Oxford University Press, Inc., 1950; Reprint 1988, Timber Press, p. 425.

Patti McGee and Garden Conservancy Receive Prestigious GCA Awards

On April 17, 2012, at its annual awards ceremony in Savannah, Georgia, the Garden Club of America (GCA) bestowed one of its highest honors available to Charleston gardening guru, founding member of the **Charleston Horticultural Society**, and active, long-time member and former board member of the Southern Garden History Society, **Evelyn ‘Patti’ Moore McGee** by naming her a **2012 Honorary Member** of the illustrious national gardening organization. The GCA annually recognizes ‘extraordinary efforts in the fields of gardening, botany, conservation and education through the extension of honorary memberships.’ Anyone familiar with Patti’s long standing dedication to the art of gardening and education in Charleston would agree she is a prime candidate for such an honor.

The evening was of particular excitement for Patti as the national **Garden Conservancy**, of which she is

an active board member, was also honored with the GCA’s **Medal for Historic Preservation**.

Patti McGee, widely known for her extensive home gardening and educational and conservation efforts throughout Charleston, is also a founding member of the **Charleston Horticultural Society**, an education and membership based organization that ‘seeks to inspire Lowcountry horticulture’. She and her husband Peter have renovated two nineteenth-century homes and gardens in Charleston, one of which is included in the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Gardens. Patti, who has been featured in numerous national publications, gardening books and television shows, is also the 2009 recipient of the prestigious **1830 Award Medal** from the Charleston Horticultural Society, the organization’s highest honor for gardening and horticultural excellence.



SGHS Celebrated its 30th Annual Meeting

By Susan Hitchcock, Atlanta, Georgia

Richmond, Virginia, provided the backdrop for the 30th annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, June 1-3, 2012. Settled in the seventeenth century, Richmond's location along the fall line of the James River made it a center for both an industrial and a plantation economy, and both have left a lasting legacy on the city. Its garden heritage is equally rich, with its monument-lined avenues, beautiful parks, historic cemeteries, and grounds designed by renowned landscape architects. Southern Garden History Society president Dean Norton worked with local contacts, including Terry Tosh, Cathy Lee, and Sue Thompson, to craft a conference schedule that was educational as well as entertaining, including both public and private landscapes.

Our home base was the famous Jefferson Hotel in downtown Richmond. Opened in 1895, it is considered to be one of the finest examples of Beaux Arts style in America. The meeting began with the Society's annual business meeting led by President Dean Norton. At this time, the changing of the gavel occurred, as incoming President Staci Catron presented Dean Norton with a framed print of Mark Catesby's "Baltimore Bird and Tulip Tree" in appreciation for his term as president. The afternoon's first lecture was presented by Maymont Director of Horticulture Peggy Singlemann, who manages a former 100-acre Country Place era garden on a nonprofit's budget. The story of Maymont began in 1893, when James and Sallie Dooley completed their elaborate estate on a site high above the James River. In the early twentieth century, Italian and Japanese style gardens were created in the larger setting of a more naturalistic English pastoral landscape of specimen trees. Upon their deaths and according to their wishes, Maymont—including its architectural complex, the 100-acre landscape, and a collection of exquisite furnishings—was left to the people of Richmond. The day ended with Will Rieley's overview of the garden restoration projects undertaken by The Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) in Richmond. Rieley serves as the landscape architect for GCV, a position he has held since 1998. In that capacity, he works at the direction of the Restoration Committee to prepare plans for new projects GCV undertakes, and advises on projects previously completed where adjustments or new work is contemplated. He discussed projects at Wilton, St. John's Mews, The Kent-Valentine House, the Grace Arents Garden, Maymont, and the Virginia Executive Mansion. Will personally oversaw the restoration of the garden at the Virginia Executive Mansion in 2000 using the original Charles Gillette plans. Friday's tour of Maymont before dinner was cut short by a severe thunder storm, which pounded the city just as we boarded buses. We were taken

directly to the Nature Center instead, where we dined on the tented terrace as rain continued to fall.

Saturday's packed schedule began with Peter Hatch's lecture on his extraordinary new book, "*A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello*." The focus of the Vegetable Garden at Monticello was the crops that it produced, which included hundreds of varieties of vegetables and fruit trees cultivated during Jefferson's retirement years of 1809 to 1826. The restoration of the vegetable garden began in the 1980s when the site was little more than a parking lot. Extensive archeology unearthed the locations of the fruit trees, the palings that corresponded to Jefferson's grid map of the fence, and uncovered the garden wall and pavilion. The garden was then painstakingly restored under Peter's supervision and survives today as a testament to the genius of Jefferson's passion for gardening local and as an inspiration to many. How the garden will survive without Peter's stewardship only time will tell.

One name is synonymous with landscape architecture in Richmond—Charles F. Gillette, who is known as the architect of the Virginia garden. Gillette scholar Dr. George Longest recounted the early days of Gillette's work for Warren Manning's office in Connecticut and his move to Richmond to supervise the construction of Manning's plan for Richmond College. The peak years of Gillette's career as a landscape architect coincided with the height of the Country Place era, when wealthy property



Photo by G. Grant

Members departing the Virginia Capitol Building in Richmond. Susan Hitchcock, Staci Catron, and Ben Page in foreground.



Photo by G. Grant

Roberta Maestri, Sally Reeves, and Bill and Lucille Welch at Lewis Ginter.

owners throughout the United States built impressive country residences surrounded by meticulously conceived gardens and dramatic vistas. After setting up practice in Richmond, Gillette learned to adapt traditional forms and styles to the requirements of the Virginia climate and countryside. Dr. Longest described many details of Gillette's work in Richmond, including the University of Richmond, Agcroft Hall, Virginia House, Redesdale, and the Governor's Mansion.

One of the most informative lectures of the day was presented by Wesley Greene, long time gardener at Colonial Williamsburg, who shared his methods of raising heirloom vegetables using only eighteenth-century tools and techniques. The title of his talk, "Gardening Under Cover," refers to the ways in which gardeners first supplied a vegetable out of season using hotbeds, frames and hoops, bell jars, and cold frames. Wesley uses all of these techniques in his Colonial Williamsburg historic garden and nursery.

After a delicious noontime lunch buffet provided by the Jefferson Hotel, Calder Loth, senior architectural historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, gave one of the most thought-provoking talks of the conference. Entitled "Arborocideaphobia: The Challenge of Managing Historic Landscapes and Gardens," the presentation addressed a fear of cutting down trees in historic gardens. Loth presented several examples of historic properties with significant buildings where trees or hedges have taken over the setting, resulting in a loss of design intent. Two examples of Richmond landscapes recently restored to their original condition without foundations plantings are the Virginia State Capitol and the Virginia Executive Mansion.

The last presentation was by Monticello Curator of Plants Peggy Cornett, who spoke on "Found Roses in Historic Cemeteries and Gardens," with a particular focus on heirloom roses in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. Always an engaging speaker on the topic of historic plants, Peggy introduced participants to some of the found



Photo by W. Amos

Louisiana board members Anne Legett, John Sykes, and Marion Drummond at Lewis Ginter.

roses that we would be seeing on our tour of Hollywood Cemetery, set on the James River and designed in 1848 by John Notman in the rural cemetery style of winding carriageways and footpaths, sinuous lakes, and stately trees and shrubs. One of the more important roses still surviving at Hollywood is the Musk rose (*Rosa moschata*), mentioned in *Gerard's Herbal* of 1629, which stands on the Crenshaw Family plot, dating to the mid-nineteenth century. This now legendary specimen was re-discovered by members of the Heritage Rose Foundation in the mid 1980s at a time when it was thought the *Rosa moschata* was extinct. Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and John Hartwell Cocke at Breemo Plantation also grew this fragrant European species, and a specimen dating to 1815 still survives at Breemo, making it one of the oldest surviving roses in North America. We departed for the cemetery immediately after Peggy's lecture, where we saw firsthand a number of these heirloom roses.

Saturday's program concluded at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with a tour of the garden, drinks on the terrace, and dinner. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the SGHS Flora Ann Bynum Medal to Peter Hatch for his years of service to the Society. Jane Campbell Symmes was made an Honorary Board Member.

Sunday's optional tour began in Richmond's West End, where garden designers Terry Tosh and Sue Thompson guided us through several estate gardens. We then drove out River Road to Tuckahoe, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson and home to Sue and Tad Thompson. Tuckahoe, a National Historic Landmark, is considered one of the finest surviving examples of a complete plantation layout from the early eighteenth century. It also features a twentieth-century Charles Gillette garden. We lunched at Tuckahoe, strolled through the gardens, and toured the interior of the house. The day ended at Redesdale, the elegant home of Charlie and Ann Reed, designed by noted architect William

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SGHS Celebrated its 30th Annual Meeting... (continued from page 9)

Lawrence Bottomley and featuring another intact Charles Gillette garden. We toured the property with Charlie and his devoted English landscape gardener of many years, Norman Harvey, who regaled us with stories of the management of the landscape. While most estates of this



Photo by P. Cornett

Musk Rose still survives at the Crenshaw Family grave site in Hollywood Cemetery.

size have retreated from gardening on a large scale, the Reeds revel in it. The conference concluded on a high note for those able to attend Sunday's tour, as all agreed the Richmond meeting was a fait accompli by the organizing committee.



Photo by J. Sykes

SGHS members visiting the Monument to the Confederate Dead at Hollywood Cemetery.

Flora Ann Bynum Endowment Update

By Carleton Wood, SGHS Vice President

At the spring 2012 meeting, the Society's Board of Directors voted to have the Flora Ann Bynum Memorial Endowment fund professionally managed by the North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF). Officially known as the *Flora Ann Bynum Fund for the Southern Garden History Society* the fund will be used as a true endowment, the principal will be retained while a portion of the earned income will help support the Society in perpetuity. The fund was initiated with \$10,000 from the Society and plans are in place to make additional contributions to the endowment in the coming years. According to Society President Staci Catron: "We are so pleased to have the North Carolina Community Foundation helping us oversee this fund. They are highly regarded in the field and provide the professional financial guidance we are seeking. Long term, this new endowment fund will serve as a cornerstone for the Society."

The history of the endowment dates to spring 2006 when it was formally established by the Society's Board and named in honor of Flora Ann Bynum, a founding member and a driving and cohesive force for the Society for over 20 years. Later that year it was decided that interest from the fund would be used to endow the keynote speaker for the biennial Restoring Southern

Gardens and Landscapes Conference. Additionally, the Board suggested that future honorariums, memorials, and gifts to the Society be added to the fund and used to underwrite a speaker at the SGHS annual meeting. They expressed hope that as the corpus grows, funds would be available for other special projects relevant to the Society's mission. The NCCF fund will be used to support all of the original purposes plus, when funds are available, annual meeting student scholarships. In addition to contributions directly from the Society, individuals can also make donations. Those interested in contributing to the fund can make checks payable to: NCCF/ Flora Ann Bynum Fund for SGHS and mail them to: NC Community Foundation, Inc., 4601 Six Forks Road, Suite 524, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609. Donors wishing to give online or by credit card can visit www.nccommunityfoundation.org and click on giving. If you are interested in supporting the Society through a planned gift, bequest, charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, life insurance policy or other tax-saving estate planning vehicles, please contact Beth Boney Jenkins, Vice President for Development, NCCF at (919) 256-6932 or bjenkins@nccommunityfoundation.org. Be on the lookout for more information about the endowment fund in the next issue of *Magnolia* when we will announce a special gift from the Society for those who donate to the endowment fund.

Members in the News

The August/September issue of *Garden and Gun* magazine includes an article by Robert Hicks, “Digging History, a gardener finds his calling in plots of the past,” featuring SGHS member **Justin Stelter**, head gardener at historic Carnation Plantation in Franklin, TN. Stelter is restoring the gardens created by Colonel John McGavock in 1847.

The July/August issue of *Elle Décor* magazine highlights two more Tennessee members—Nashville-based landscape architect **Ben Page** and wife **Libby**—in Julia Reed’s “Cultivating New Ground.” The article details the

Page’s restoration of a rural mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival house, the couple’s second home, about an hour from Nashville.

Southern Living magazine has featured several members recently. The July 2012 issue includes articles on **Randy Harelson** and **Richard Gibbs’** renovation of their cottage in Point Washington, Florida and on **Greg Grant’s** restoration of his dogtrot house and gardens in rural Texas. The September issue highlights **Monticello’s** restored vegetable garden in an article by Steve Bender with stunning photographs by Robbie Caponetto.

In Print

Rosemont Plantation: A History of the Cunningham Family ... by Christy Snipes, Rosemont Preservation Society, SC, 2011. To order, contact Alvina Meeks at rose-

montpreservationsociety@charter.net or write RPS, P.O. Box 188 Gray Court, SC 29645. For more, see Notable Books page at www.southerngardenhistory.org

Peter Hatch Receives Flora Ann Bynum Award

By Peggy Cornett, Charlottesville, Virginia

At the close of the 2012 SGHS annual meeting in Richmond, Peter J. Hatch, Monticello’s former Director of Gardens and Grounds, received the Society’s highest honor, the Flora Ann Bynum Award, following the reception and dinner at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Before departing from Monticello in 2012, Peter had dedicated 34 years to restoring Thomas Jefferson’s gardens; including the maintenance, interpretation, and preservation of the 2,400-acre landscape owned by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. A scholar and gardener, he is considered one of the foremost authorities on Jefferson and garden history in America, and is the author of numerous books and articles on the topic. His most recent book, *“A Rich Spot of Earth” Thomas Jefferson’s Revolutionary Garden at Monticello* (Yale University Press and TJF, 2012), is the result of three decades of careful research and unwavering immersion into the gardening world of Thomas Jefferson, and is already receiving accolades from across the country. Peter has revealed a significant dimension of Jefferson as a gardener, farmer, plantsman, and lover of nature; and his books will undoubtedly influence and inform the direction of historic garden restoration in America for years to come. According to a recent review, “Peter has created a passionate discourse for those interested in

learning more about gardening, landscape architecture, cooking, and American history.”

His significant contributions to historic preservation and gardening have been recognized by a number of prestigious organizations. He received the Thomas Roland Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society (2004); and in 2011

he was awarded the Garden Club of America’s Medal for Historic Preservation. Since 1986, he has played an active role in the Society, serving as board member and as President, and hosting the 1987 annual meeting at Monticello.

In his early career as Old Salem’s Horticulturist, Peter Hatch was mentored by Flora Ann Bynum herself and she took special pride in his subsequent achievements. Peter’s tenacious spirit and poetic style, in turn, continues to challenge and inspire countless others.





Southern Garden History Society

P.O. Box 15752

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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. 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 2010-2011 year. Membership categories:

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

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
Memberships can now be made electronically on our Web site!
www.southerngardenhistory.org

Deadline for submitting articles for the Fall issue of Magnolia is October 31, 2012.

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