



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

Magnolia

Bulletin of the Southern Garden
History Society

Vol. XVIII

No. 1

Winter 2002-2003

A History of Fruitland Nurseries, Augusta, Georgia and the Berckmans Family in America

By Michael Reynolds, Atlanta, Georgia

Introduction

When the history of gardening and horticulture in Georgia is discussed in knowledgeable circles, the name Fruitland is always prominent in the conversation. The historic Fruitland Nurseries of Augusta, Georgia, not only played an important role in horticulture in the state, but also was influential across the southeastern United States as well as the whole of the eastern seaboard of this nation. Fruitland Nurseries was located on Washington Road three miles northwest of downtown Augusta and one mile west of the Savannah River and the state line of South Carolina. The old nursery is now the location of the Augusta National Golf Club, home of the prestigious Masters Golf Tournament.



Entrance to Fruitland Nurseries at Washington Road and Magnolia Avenue (circa 1885).

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The Early Years

Even prior to the creation of the nurseries by the Berckmans family in the mid-nineteenth century, the Fruitland tract was a historic location. In the eighteenth century, the Fruitland tract was part of the community of Bedford. The old Bedford Tavern stood on Washington Road just north of what became Magnolia Avenue, the entrance to the Fruitland property and what is today the entrance to the Augusta National Golf Club. The main spring on the property was a traditional watering spot for Indians and European settlers who traveled the trail that became Washington Road. In addition, it is said that Hernando De Soto passed by the property during his explorations in 1540 (Berckmans & Berckmans 1932, *Augusta Chronicle* 1957).

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CALENDAR

February 28, 2003. Southern Garden Heritage Conference, "Preserving Gardens of the Southeast," Georgia Center for Continuing Education, University of Georgia, at Georgia. For further information, contact Al Henderson: (706) 542-2237, or by email at al.Henderson@gactr.uga.edu. For brochure and online registration, please use the Georgia Center website: www.gactr.uga.edu/conferences.

March 3-4, 2003. "Plants in the Company of People," the Davidson Horticultural Symposium XIX. This annual event sponsored by The Davidson Garden Club and hosted by Davidson College, features notable gardening experts such as *New York Times* garden writer Anne Raver, Dr. Arthur O. Tucker, and Barry Yinger among others. For more information, write DHS XIX, P.O. Box 1145, Davidson, NC 28036 or contact (704) 896-7548 (cindysings@hotmail.com) for general information; (704) 892-3665 (pollycb@mindspring.com) for registration questions.

April 11-13, 2003. *"Atlanta's Landscape Legacy" - the 21st Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society.* In 2003 the SGHS returns to Atlanta, the site of its 1983 inaugural meeting. The conference also coincides with the height of dogwood season and the 67th annual Dogwood Festival in Piedmont Park. Lectures will address Atlanta's garden and landscape history with particular attention to its early 20th-century legacy. The conference features the works of Neel Reid and Philip Shutze, two of Atlanta's most notable architects, as well as Frederick Law Olmsted, Ellen Shipman and others who have contributed to Atlanta's landscape legacy. The meeting will focus also on southern garden literature and writers such as Elizabeth Lawrence. The meeting is headquartered at the Atlanta History Center (AHC), the city's premier history museum offering award-winning exhibits about Atlanta and the South, thirty-three acres of gardens, the historic Tullie Smith and Swan Houses, and the Cherokee Garden Library, Center for the Study of Southern Garden History. Visits are scheduled for Atlanta's Northside gardens and tours of the Atlanta History Center Museum and Gardens and the Cherokee Garden Library. For information, contact Staci Catron-Sullivan at (404) 814-4046; fax (404) 814-4175; SCatron-Sullivan@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com. AHC is located at 130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW. Web site: www.atlantahistorycenter.com; telephone: (404) 814-4000.

May 10, 2003. "2003 Spring Garden Tour of Historic Hillsborough, North Carolina," sponsored by The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough. Featured gardens include: Fairmont, the Webb-Grunewald Garden, and the Alexander Dickson House Garden. For further information, contact Cathleen Turner, (919) 732-7741; cathleen@historichillsborough.org or visit the Web site at: www.historichillsborough.org

May 24, 2003. The Annual Open House of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants featuring heirloom roses, dianthus, iris and other historic perennials at the center's nursery and headquarters at Tufton Farm. For more information, call (434) 984-9816; E-mail: pcornett@monticello.org or visit Monticello's Web site at: www.monticello.org

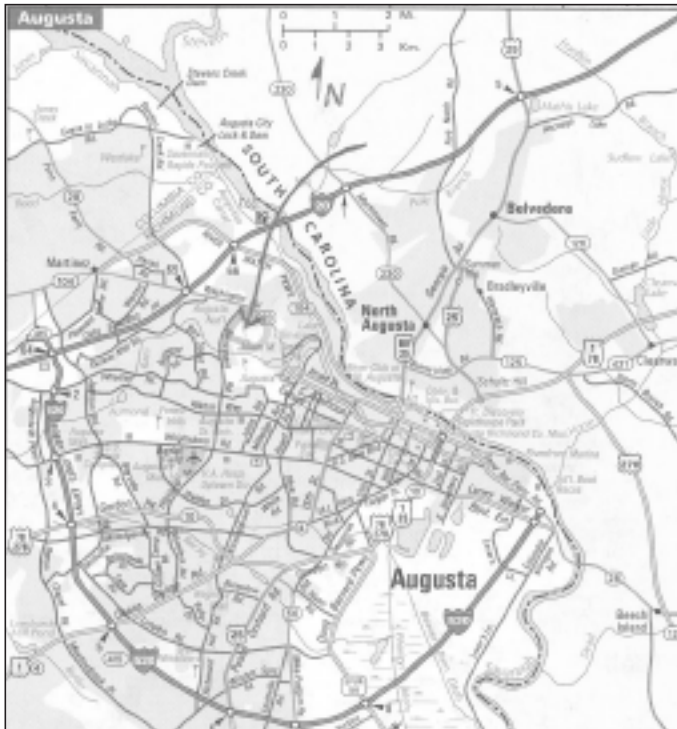
June 8-20, 2003. "Preserving Jefferson's Landscapes and Gardens," the seventh annual Historic Landscape Institute, sponsored by the University of Virginia and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Participants live on the historic Lawn of the University and attend an intensive curriculum focusing on the landscapes and gardens of Thomas Jefferson. For information, contact Peter Hatch, (434) 984-9836; phatch@monticello.org

September 25-27, 2003. "A Genius and His Legacy: Frederick Law Olmsted in the South," the 14th Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes held at Old Salem, Inc. [See article below for more details.] For further information, contact Kay Bergey, (336) 721-7378; bergeymk@wfu.edu; or write her at: Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27108.

October 2, 2003. "The Botanical Journey of Lewis and Clark," Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Lectures by Peter Hatch, director of Monticello's gardens and grounds, and Dr. James Reveal, author of *Gentle Conquest*, and botanical scholar with the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia on the unique Lewis and Clark collection of original plant specimens from the famed expedition. For more information, call (804) 262-9887; or see the botanical garden education series Web site at: www.lewisginter.org

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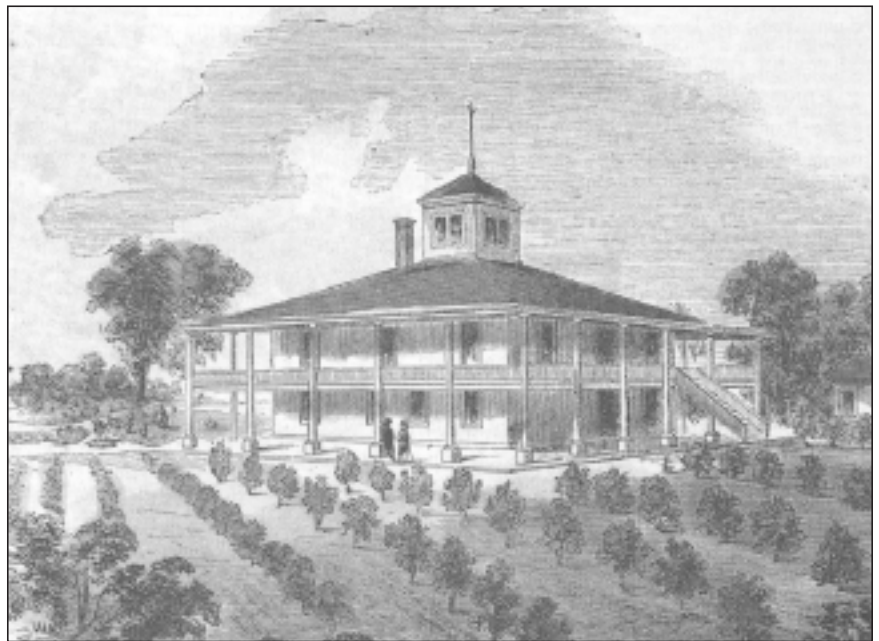
Location of the Fruitland Nurseries property, Augusta, Georgia.

In the early nineteenth century, the Fruitland tract was owned by Benjamin Simms, a prominent Augusta citizen, and later was purchased by Lindsay Coleman (Cashin, 1980). Judge Benjamin Warren of Augusta owned the property in the mid-nineteenth century and sold the 315-acre tract to Dennis Redmond in 1853 (NRHP, 1979). It was Redmond who named the property Fruitland and began a small nursery business. Shortly thereafter, Redmond purchased the adjacent farm, known as Bedford, from James Coleman, thus increasing the size of his property holdings (Cashin, 1980). Dennis Redmond became a well-known nurseryman. He initially experimented with indigo and by 1856 was growing apples, peaches, figs, grapes, strawberries, and ornamental shrubs and trees. The more successful of his crops he sold commercially and promoted them through advertisements in the *Augusta Chronicle* (Cashin, 1983).

In 1852, Redmond became an editor of the *Southern Cultivator*, a popular agricultural magazine. He became sole editor in 1859 and in 1860 he purchased the quarterly magazine from the retiring owner, William S. Jones. Redmond was well known for promoting crop diversification in the South, which relied on cotton as the primary cash crop. He thought that this would help the southern states become stronger and more economically independent from the North (Pittman, 1985).

In 1854, Mr. Redmond constructed a large house at Fruitland, which would become the clubhouse for the Augusta National Golf Club in the twentieth century. The building was constructed to resemble a Louisiana plantation house with architectural elements reminiscent of the West Indies (NRHP, 1979). The two-story, 50 by 50 foot house has a hipped roof topped by a cupola, from which Mr. Redford observed the progress of work on his property. There is also a two-story integral veranda supported by 20 square pillars surrounding the house, which is constructed of concrete, the first of its kind in the southeastern United States (NRHP, 1979). Mr. Redmond provided a detailed description of the house in an 1857 issue of *The Southern Cultivator*.

The lower story or basement contains the dining room, pantry, storeroom, office, bathing room, fruit room and icehouse - in short, all the working rooms, or apartments for everyday use; while the second story contains the library, parlor bedrooms, closets, etc. Two large halls, fifty-three feet by ten feet, run directly through the building, securing perfect ventilation, especially to the second story, where transom lights over each door and opposite the outer windows admit the freest possible circulation of pure air. The basement floor is raised several inches above the surface, filled in with pounded rock and gravel and laid in cement, which adheres firmly to the walls, thus affording the perfect security against fire, dampness, and the depredation of rats and other vermin. By a very simple arrangement, the stairs leading from the basement to the second floor, and thence to the observatory or cupola, are removed from their usual position in the halls, leaving the latter entirely free and unobstructed ... The lower division walls, separating the hall from the dining room, office, etc.,

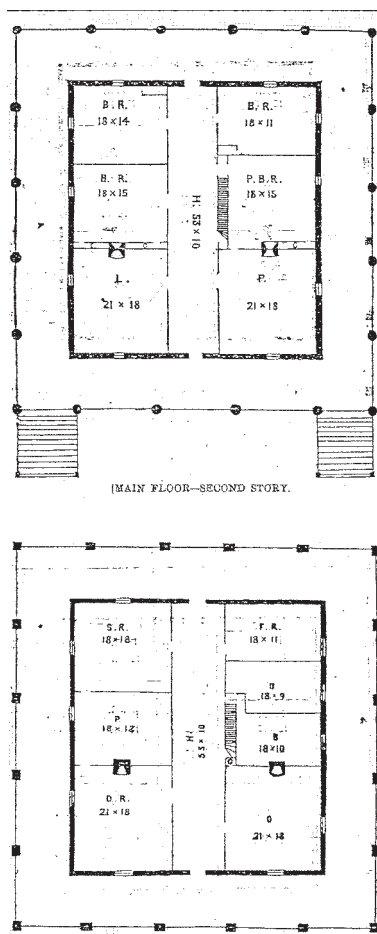


Sketch of the Redmond mansion at Fruitland (1857). This rendering originally appeared in *The Southern Cultivator*, 1857.

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Plan views of the Redmond mansion at Fruitland (1857). This rendering originally appeared in *The Southern Cultivator*, 1857.

Fruitland Nurseries and the Berckmans Family

In 1857 Dr. Louis Mathieu Edouard Berckmans and his son, Prosper Jules Alphonse Berckmans, purchased half interest in Fruitland and 50 of the adjoining acreage of the Bedford Farm (Marye, 1933). The two Berckmans, originally from Lierre, Belgium, both possessed an interest in horticulture. Dr. Berckmans, a medical doctor, was self-educated in the field of horticulture (Bishop, 1997) while his son received a university education in horticulture from France (Myers, 1927). The mother of Prosper J. A. Berckmans, Marie Gaudens Berckmans, died many years earlier, shortly after his birth. Dr. Berckmans later married Elizabeth Charlotte Arnoldine Rubens and they had a son, Emil Berckmans. They all came to America to escape political and religious turmoil in their homeland (Range, 1952; Bishop, 1997).

In 1850, Prosper J. A. Berckmans first arrived in the United States ahead of his family and traveled extensively, primarily in the Southeast, in search of property to start a nursery. He was nineteen at the time and he kept a detailed diary of his yearlong travels (Bishop, 1997). He stayed for a brief period in Habersham County in North Georgia where he and his father owned mineral rights. This get-rich-quick venture did not succeed, given that there were

actually few remaining precious minerals in the area. He also found that the cold weather and lack of transportation for shipping made the region unsuitable for a commercial agricultural venture (Range, 1952).

P. J. A. Berckmans also visited a Belgian colony in Rome, Georgia, in search of agricultural property. He stayed at the plantation of General Louis Joseph Barthold LeHardy, Viscount de Beaulieu, during part of his visit. P. J. A. Berckmans noted that the primary crops of the plantation were cotton, corn, and wheat. General LeHardy financed the establishment of the Belgian colony, which consisted of 25 people, many of whom were members of his own family. They arrived in Rome in 1848 and settled in an area West of the city. The land surrounded several springs that became known as Carlier Springs (for Louis Henry Carlier, a civil engineer and member of the colony), and today as Callier Springs. Another small band of colonist settled northeast of Rome between the Coosa River and Horseleg Mountain, also known as Mount Alto. The colonists primarily raised truck crops and some fruits, especially grapes. Once the vineyards were established they also began producing wine. Despite the strong Belgian connection, Prosper J. A. Berckmans did not choose the Rome area for a nursery (Battey, 1922; Bishop, 1997). Again, climate and lack of adequate transportation were most likely factors in his decision.

In 1851, Dr. Louis M. E. Berckmans came to the United States with his second wife and son and settled with Prosper J. A. Berckmans in Plainfield, New Jersey. It was Dr. Berckmans who chose the New Jersey property. Plainfield was also the home of the famous horticulturalists James and Andrew Jackson Downing (Myers, 1927; Bishop, 1997). In Plainfield the Berckmans started a nursery where they grew over a thousand varieties of pears and experimented with a variety of other fruit trees. In A. J. Downing's 1855 book on horticulture he noted that Louis M. E. Berckmans was an accomplished artist, particularly in the area of plant renderings. It was also in Plainfield that Prosper J. A. Berckmans married Mary Craig of Freehold, New Jersey. The cold weather in New Jersey, however, proved unsuitable for their horticultural venture and experiments (Range, 1952; Bishop, 1997).

Augusta, Georgia, later became attractive to the Berckmans because of its temperate climate and its rich soils (Range, 1952; Bishop, 1997). Being a transportation center via water, road, and rail, also made the area attractive for shipping purposes. However, Dr. Berckmans divorced his second wife Elizabeth and she remained in New Jersey (Bishop, 1997). His son, Emil, lived in Augusta beginning in 1858, but he later returned to New Jersey (Caroline Berckmans Davis, 2002, personal communication).

In 1858, Louis M. E., Prosper J. A., and Mary Craig Berckmans became sole owners of the Fruitland property. Louis and Prosper formed the P. J. A. Berckmans Company that operated under the name Fruitland Nurseries (Roberts, 1976). The Berckmans completed work on the Redmond house, which became their home, and planted an avenue of magnolias along the approach to the house beginning at Washington Road (Range,

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1952). The Magnolias were grown from seed sent to Fruitland Nurseries from Athens, Georgia (Marye, 1933). Dennis Redmond, meanwhile, had purchased some adjoining property and began experimenting with the cultivation of grapes. He named his new acreage "Vineland" (Pittman, 1985). When touring the Washington Road area of Augusta today, the only remaining evidence of this property is Vineland Road, located immediately south of the Augusta National Golf Club. Over time the Berckmans house and property became known as "Fruitlands" as opposed to the singular "Fruitland" used in the name of the nursery business (Caroline Berckmans Davis, 2002, personal communication).

The Contributions of Louis M. E. and Prosper J. A. Berckmans

The Berckmans at Fruitlands soon gained an excellent reputation in southern horticulture. They began selecting and importing the greatest variety of plants, shrubs, and trees to the Southeast. At age thirty, only three years after taking over Fruitland Nurseries, Prosper J. A. Berckmans had become the most well known horticulturist in the South (Range, 1952). After being in business four years, Fruitland Nurseries advertised in their catalog over 1,300 varieties of pears, 900 types of apples, 300 varieties of grapes, and 100 types of azaleas and camellias. Fruitland Nurseries became the first premium winner at the Georgia State Fair for the largest and best collection of southern apple, peach, and pear trees to be exhibited (Range, 1952).

Prosper J. A. Berckmans became famous for developing new fruit varieties, more suitable for growing in the South. Prior to Berckmans work, the development and introduction of new fruits came in the form of amateur growers distributing seedlings to their friends. Information on horticulture, new plant varieties, and growing techniques, were disseminated in a similar limited pattern across the Southeast. Horticultural societies and conventions were sparse. Berckmans work in the budding and grafting of fruit trees and other plants was revolutionary in the South. In addition, his continual and voluminous correspondence with other horticulturists across the United States and Europe was instrumental in spreading new growing and propagation techniques, as well as new plant varieties, throughout the eastern United States, but particularly across the South (Range, 1952).

Berckmans eventually became known as the "father of peach culture in the South." In 1858 he began distributing the South Chinese or Honey Peach and shortly thereafter made the first commercial shipment of peaches from Georgia to New York. Berckmans also experimented with the flat almond flavored Peento or Java peach from north China. He originally grew the fruit from a seed sent to him from Australia. Although it did not grow well in Georgia, it was successful enough in Florida to serve as the parent fruit for other Florida varieties. Berckmans also worked with others to improve the Chinese Cling variety of peach. The Chinese Cling eventually produced the Elberta, Belle, and Thurber peaches, Georgia's primary commercial varieties. Berckmans' Thurber was

the leading variety until it was replaced by the Elberta, which had been improved by Samuel Rumph. During Berckmans' lifetime he introduced or improved three of the five primary varieties of peaches grown in the South. As a result of his efforts, he eventually saw the commercial shipment of peaches from Georgia rise to 7,000 freight cars a year (Range, 1952).

Berckmans also was responsible for introducing many other varieties of fruits and ornamental plants to the South. Some examples are the Kelsey plum, Japanese persimmon, hardy lemon, kumquat, the sand pear and its hybrids, and the *Poncirus trifoliata*, or Japanese lemon hedge, which is an important stock in orange growing. Other varieties developed at Fruitland included varieties of the Chinese evergreen *Platycladus orientalis* [formerly *Biota orientalis*] such as 'Aureus Nanus', 'Aureus Conspicuus', and 'Pyramidalis', as well as the *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Fruitlandii',



The Spanish Cork Oak in its native environment.

climbing 'Clothilde Soupert' Rose, and several types of *Althaeas* (Marye, 1933). Fruitland's vast stock of azaleas and camellias, originally imported from Japan, Belgium, Germany, and France, greatly contributed to their early and continued popularity in the South. Moreover, the popularity of roses in the South can be partially attributed to the many varieties grown at Fruitland Nurseries (Range, 1952).

During the first 25 years of Fruitland Nurseries, many varieties of trees and shrubs were grown, including Darlington oak (*Quercus laurifolia* var.), Chinese pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis*), Chinese holly (*Ilex chinensis*), holly-leaved tea olive (*Osmanthus heterophyllus*), and blue-spire juniper (*Juniperus communis* 'Glauca') (Marye, 1933). Prosper J. A. Berckmans developed the Spanish cork oak (*Quercus suber*) (Figure 4) and he obtained a patent for the tree in

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1860 (NRHP, 1979). In 1860, Berckmans also introduced the Amur privet hedge (*Ligustrum amurense*) from France. (Figure 5) At Fruitland it was called the “Mother Hedge” because from the original ten plants, came all of the privet hedges now found across the Southeast. In addition, Berckmans originated and introduced other evergreens such as the golden arborvita - *Thuja orientalis* ‘Conspicua’ and the dwarf golden arborvita - *Thuja orientalis* ‘Aurea Nana’, both narrow-leaf evergreens used for formal garden planting (Marye, 1933). Furthermore, it is believed that Berckmans also introduced Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) to the South through Fruitland Nurseries and it continues to grow on the Augusta property today (NRHP, 1979).

As Fruitland Nurseries became more successful, it began to expand over the Berckmans property. Louis and Prosper Berckmans started out with a 25-acre plot for the nursery. By the 1870s it had expanded to 100 acres and by the 1880s, Fruitland Nurseries was mailing out 25,000 catalogs a year, many of which were being sent overseas (Range, 1952).

The contributions of Prosper J. A. Berckmans went beyond his work at Fruitlands, however. He served for a period as the editor of the local Augusta publication *Farmer and Gardener* and over his lifetime he wrote many papers on topics such as landscape gardening, forestry, floriculture, and pomology. In 1876 Berckmans assisted in the founding of the Georgia State Horticultural Society, which became the first permanent state horticultural organization in the South. Berckmans was the society’s first president and held the position until his death in 1910, a term of 34 years. As president, Berckmans began publishing catalogs of fruits that were suitable for growing in Georgia and lead the society in their effort to establish horticultural schools and colleges across the state. However, state support for their establishment did not materialize (Range, 1952).

Berckmans served also as the president of the American Pomological Society from 1887 to 1897. Being elected to this position for five successive terms was the highest honor that could be given in his field. In 1889 horticulturists from the North and the South were recommending Berckmans to be the first United States Secretary of Agriculture, but he turned down the nomination (Range, 1952). In 1898 Prosper J. A. Berckmans became the founder of the Georgia Board of Entomology and served on the board the remainder of his life. He served also as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Agricultural Experimental Station at the University of Georgia. As a board member, he often requested from the state more funding for the station as well as for the College of Agriculture. Despite his requests, he was never satisfied with what funds were provided. Later, in 1907, he was chair of the Jury of Awards at the Jamestown Exposition, and in 1908 Berckmans was the only American to act as judge at the Centennial of the Royal Agricultural Society in Ghent, Belgium



Amur Privet Hedge (*Ligustrum amurense*).

(Marye, 1933).

In addition, Prosper J. A. Berckmans promoted state legislation to protect insect-eating birds. He supported the teaching of agriculture in the public schools, including the planting of school gardens. He promoted forest conservation and reforestation, city beautification, and the universal use of Latin botanical names for plants, along with their common names, so that they could be recognized around the world. In 1890, again through his appeals, the United States Census Bureau began a decimal survey of horticulture (Range, 1952). Berckmans also was known for his design of Barnsley Gardens in northwest Georgia (Sullivan, 1981). Barnsley Gardens, originally known as Woodlands, was the nineteenth-century estate of shipping magnate Godfrey Barnsley. Prosper J. A. Berckmans designed the gardens surrounding the Italianate style villa based on the landscape designs of Andrew Jackson Downing (Barnsley Gardens, 2001).

The History and Contributions of the Berckmans Family

In his later years, after contributing greatly to the growth of Fruitland Nurseries, Dr. Louis Mathieu Edouard Berckmans formed a friendship with a Rome, Georgia, newspaper man, Major Charles Smith, whose pen name was “Bill Arp.” Smith persuaded Dr. Berckmans to retire in Rome by offering to sell him 40 acres of land on top of Horseleg Mountain for five dollars. Louis took the offer in 1870 and moved to the mountain at age 69. By this time, however, the Belgian colony had dissolved. After seven years in Rome (1848-1855), General LeHardy and most of his family moved to Charleston, South Carolina. They later returned to Brussels, Belgium, in 1858. Others from the colony moved to

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Dr. Louis Mathieu Edouard Berckmans, circa 1870.

Savannah, Georgia. In 1870 Louis Henry Carlier, the engineer, was killed in a family dispute with his brother-in-law, Camille LeHardy, and was buried in the Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome. Only one other Belgian colonist, Eugene LeHardy (cousin to Camille LeHardy), is buried in Rome. He is also interred in the Myrtle Hill Cemetery. Camille LeHardy was acquitted of the killing of Carlier and in 1878 moved with his family to Eagle Cliff on Lookout Mountain in Walker Count. Camille LeHardy, his family, and his cousin, Eugene, were the last of the Belgian settlers in Rome (Battay, 1922; Bishop, 1997).

Once in Rome, Dr. Louis M. E. Berckmans, constructed a wood frame and stone one-room house on top of the southeastern tip of Horseleg Mountain. He constructed a stone wall that surrounded the cabin to protect it from the mountain winds and a stone foundation to support a cold frame. Beyond this he created three terraces for planting a wide variety of plants. He grew plants from seeds that would propagate better in the higher altitude of North Georgia. Some of the seedlings would then be shipped to Fruitland Nurseries. In addition to many types of flowers, Dr. Berckmans planted pear, apple peach, plum, and cherry trees and he also cultivated grape vines. At various times Dr. Berckmans hired people to help

him with his planting. These workers stayed in a second cabin that was constructed on the property (Bishop 1997).

Dr. Berckmans named his property, which encompassed the southern tip of Horseleg Mountain, Mount Alto (for Mount Alto in Italy, which he once visited) and would often refer to his cabin as the "Castle of Mount Alto" (Bishop, 1997). Over time many people began referring to the entire mountain as Mount Alto and today the road that extends the entire length of the mountain is known as Mount Alto Road (Caroline Berckmans Davis 2002, personal communication).

Dr. Berckmans spent the remainder of his life living on Mount Alto, while his son Prosper J. A. ran the nursery business in Augusta (Caroline Berckmans Davis 2002, personal communication). Dr. Berckmans died in December of 1883 while on a visit to his family at Fruitlands and is buried in the Summerville Cemetery near Augusta. Unfortunately there is no physical evidence left of his cabins on Mount Alto. At present there is a modern house known as "Eagle Dare" built on the location of his home. At one time there were remnants of the stone wall on the mountain, which also have disappeared due to road improvements and the construction of other new houses along Mount Alto Road (Dr. C. J. Wyatt, 2002, personal communication).

Although Prosper J. A. Berckmans stood out as the great contributor to horticulture, his entire family contributed to the success of Fruitland Nurseries. After the death of Prosper's father, Dr. Berckmans, Prosper's wife Mary, and his sons, Prosper Jules Alphonse Jr., Robert Craig, and Louis Alphonse Berckmans continued to expand Fruitland Nurseries (Roberts, 1976) and by 1900 the nurseries covered 500 acres. Ornamental trees and shrubs covered 100 acres, roses covered 50, grapes covered 20, and test orchids covered 20 acres. Moreover, there were three acres



Magnolia Avenue (circa 1890).

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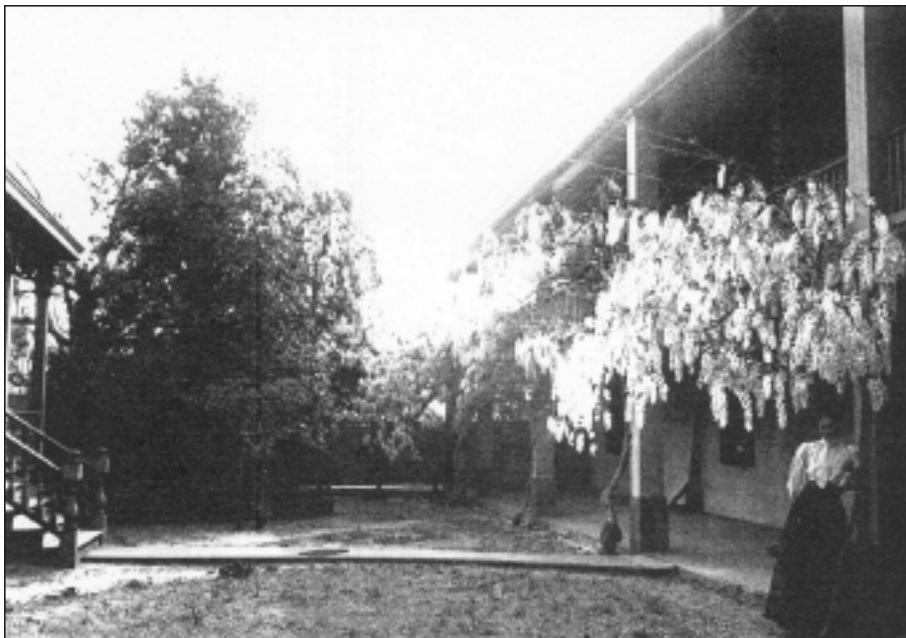
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under slat and cold frames, a substantial area covered with fruit, shade, and nut trees, as well as 60,000 square feet of greenhouses (Range, 1952). Figure 7 provides a view of Magnolia Avenue and the eastern section of the property from the cupola of the main house (circa 1890).

In addition to the greenhouses, other buildings were constructed on the Berckmans' property in the late nineteenth century. A small office was built next to the big house and several houses for Austrian grounds keepers were constructed to the rear of the Berckmans' mansion. Figure 8 provides a circa 1885 view of the area between the main house and the office with Mary Craig Berckmans standing under a wisteria vine. Figure 9 provides a circa 1895 view of the Austrian grounds keepers' houses and the Fruitlands property. In addition, P. J. A. Berckmans, Jr. (Uncle Allie) constructed a house in which he and his family lived. Louis Alphonse Berckmans (Uncle Louie) also lived in this house for a period with his brother. Figure 10 is a circa 1890 photograph of P. J. A. Berckmans, Sr. with his wife and sons on the steps of the main house. Figure 11 is a circa 1900 photograph of (left to right standing) Louis A. Berckmans, Robert Craig Berckmans, P. J. A. Berckmans, Jr., and seated, Prosper J. A. Berckmans, Sr. During this period, Prosper J. A. Berckmans, Jr. became the business manager of Fruitland Nurseries while his brothers, Robert and Louis, performed the duties of nurserymen (Caroline Berckmans Davis 2002, personal communication).

Not only did the Berckmans family continue to make Fruitland Nurseries thrive, they also acted as consultants for numerous landscaping projects across the eastern United States. In 1895 they offered their landscaping expertise to C. A. Collier,



Mary Craig Berckmans between the main house and the office (circa 1885).

executive director of the Cotton States International Exposition Company in Atlanta. Collier was directing the preparations for the Cotton States and International Exposition, which took place in what is now Piedmont Park in Atlanta. In March of 1895, P. J. A. Berckmans, Sr. struck a deal for the sale of 1,636 evergreens for \$700. One of his sons, Robert Craig Berckmans, and a crew boss were each to be employed for \$10 per day for 18 days for the planting of the trees at the fairgrounds (CSIE Co., 1895).

In the early twentieth century, after the death of Mary Craig Berckmans, Prosper J. A. Berckmans, Sr. married a widow, who had a son from her previous marriage to Alonzo Purdy. When Prosper J. A., Sr. died in 1910 at the age of 80, control of the

Fruitlands property shifted to his second wife and stepson. Initially the nurseries continued to operate and the Berckmans retained their success and reputation in the Augusta area. In fact, the Augusta Chronicle reported that in 1912 the Berckmans brothers struck the largest peach deal ever made in Georgia. The brothers sold their entire year's peach crop, from their Mayfield orchards, to a Newark, New Jersey, firm. The crop, consisting of approximately 100 freight cars, was sold for \$75,000 with a possibility of \$100,000



Austrian grounds keepers houses (circa 1895).

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(Left to Right) Louis A., Robert Craig, P.J.A., Jr., P.J.A., Sr., and Mary Craig Berckmans (Circa 1890).

Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as the golf club at Sea Island, Georgia. He also became the horticultural manager of the Augusta National Golf Course, located on the Fruitlands property and, at age 74, he was hired to rehabilitate the trees and shrubs on the old Fruitlands property during the creation of the Augusta National Golf Course. In addition to rehabilitating existing vegetation, he planted many new plant varieties around the new course. He was made a club member for his knowledge, his efforts, and his family's history on the property (The Masters, 2002). Louis died in 1938 and was buried in the family plot in the Summerville Cemetery near Augusta (*Augusta Chronicle* 1938 and Caroline Berckmans Davis, 2002, personal communication).

Robert Craig Berckmans was a nurseryman,



(Left to Right) Louis A., Robert Craig, P.J.A., Jr., and P.J.A. Berckmans, Sr. (circa 1900).

if the shipments went to the maximum expected of them (*Augusta Chronicle*, 1912).

Due to a shift in the control of the actual Fruitlands property, however, the ability of the three Berckmans brothers to manage the nursery faded and the nurseries began to decline (Davis, 1992). In less than ten years after the death of Prosper J. A. Berckmans, Sr., Fruitland Nurseries was shut down and around 1918 the trade name was sold (Dolch, 2001), apparently to Mr. R. L. Wheeler who had been a foreman at Fruitland Nurseries. Over the years, Wheeler had become knowledgeable in the field of horticulture, which enabled him to open another nursery under the Fruitland name. This nursery was located on property he owned on the east side of Washington Road across from the old Fruitland Nurseries property and it remained in business until the late 1960s (Caroline Berckmans Davis, 2002, personal communication).

After the sale of the trade name, the Berckmans brothers continued to be involved in horticulture. P. J. A. Berckmans, Jr. (Uncle Alley), a graduate of the University of Georgia, became an expert at corrective planting for golf courses. He designed the gardens at Radio City, New York, and was an expert in the establishment of fruit orchards. He continued to live in his home in Augusta, which was adjacent to the Augusta National Golf Club. He and his wife, Sally Bettle Berckmans, had no children. He died February 1, 1938, at the age of 72 and was buried near his father, mother, and grandfather in the family plot at the Summerville Cemetery near Augusta (Caroline Berckmans Davis, 2002, personal communication).

Louis Alphonse Berckmans also continued to live in Augusta. He married in middle age and had one daughter, Mary Alice Berckmans. Louis became a consultant for the Pine Hurst Golf

botanist, horticulturist, landscape designer, and consultant. He followed his father as president of the Georgia State Horticultural Society and the American Association of Nurserymen and was a member of the Georgia State Board of Entomology. After moving to Macon, Georgia, in 1918, he became superintendent of parks for the City of Macon. He also became superintendent of the Bibb County Fall Flower Show and held that position until the year before his death. In addition, he taught Boys and Girls Scouts botany and conservation. He, like his father, encouraged farmers to grow Ramie (also known as China grass, rhea, or grass cloth) as a cash crop (Sullivan, 1981). The Ramie fiber can be used as a substitute for cotton fiber in the making of cloth. It is a native of Asia and in the past 15 years has been appearing in American

continued on page 10

Fruitland...

(continued from page 9)

garments blended with other fibers such as cotton (Husu and Cheek, 1989).

Robert Craig Berckmans is known for rediscovering the rare yellow magnolia (*Magnolia cordata*), which was originally identified by the French Botanist André Michaux in the early eighteenth century. He came across it growing in Richmond and Columbia Counties, Georgia, in 1877 and 1916, and again near Cedar Creek between Jones and Putnam Counties, Georgia, in 1921 (Bane, 1957).

Robert Craig and his wife, Caroline Horne Berckmans, had four children, Caroline (now Caroline Berckmans Davis), Louis Alphonse II, Mary, and Anne. Robert Craig Berckmans died in 1956 and was buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon, Georgia (*Macon Telegraph* 1956 and Caroline Berckmans Davis, 2002, personal communication).

Fruitlands In The Later Years

Even after the sale of the Fruitland Nurseries trade name around 1918, the Berckmans family continued to own the Fruitlands property until 1925, when it was sold to famous Miami financier J. Perry (Commodore) Stoltz. By 1925 Augusta was becoming a small winter retreat for wealthy northerners. The Commodore decided he could profit from this trend by constructing a Fleetwood Hotel in Augusta, similar to the one he had in Miami. When the Commodore purchased the Fruitlands property, it started a land speculation boom in Augusta, particularly along Washington Road. The Commodore planned to construct his hotel behind the old Redmond/Berckmans mansion. The mansion was to be used as his office and was then to be torn down after the completion of the hotel and an adjoining golf course. Construction began on the hotel foundation on February 11, 1925, but in September of that year a large hurricane struck Miami, destroying the Florida real estate boom. As a result, the Stoltz financial empire crumbled and the Augusta Fleetwood resort project was shut down permanently (Cashin, 1980). The Fruitlands property remained idle for the remainder of the 1920s and early 1930s and caretakers occupied the Berckmans mansion during this period (Virginia Norton, 1999).

When famous golf champion Robert (Bobby) Tyre Jones, Jr. was preparing to retire in the early 1930s, he decided that he would build his own golf course using his own revolutionary designs. Initially he had no particular location in mind except that it had to be located in the South and in an area that would be used as a winter golf haven. Although Atlanta was his home, Bobby Jones decided that the winter weather there was not mild enough for what he had in mind. It was his friend and later business partner, Clifford Roberts, who initially suggested the small resort town of Augusta as a possible course location. When another of Jones' associates, Tom Barrett, showed him the Fruitlands property with its rolling hills, streams, and ornamental plants, he knew he had found the perfect location. His idea was to create the best men's winter golf course in the country. The club would focus only on golf with no other country club activities. There would be no living quarters on the property and the members would rely on the upscale hotel and housing accommodations already in Augusta. An option to buy the property was obtained at a price of \$70,000 and

an organization committee, as well as the Fruitland Manor Corporation, was formed in 1931. By this time, Commodore Stoltz no longer owned the property and it was being purchased through the Georgia Railroad Bank and Trust Company (Cashin, 1980 and the Fruitland Manor Corp., 1935). Bobby Jones then decided that Augusta National would be a perfect name for a club that would seek a national, yet exclusive, membership (Roberts, 1976).

Bobby Jones chose Dr. Alister Mackenzie of Scotland as the course architect and Ed Dudley of Brunswick, Georgia, as the club's golf professional (Roberts, 1976). Clifford Roberts decided to raise \$100,000 for a clubhouse and intended to demolish the old Berckmans Mansion. Sufficient funds were not raised for the project and it was decided that the old mansion would be renovated and serve as the clubhouse (Dolch, 2001). Each hole of the new course was a copy of Jones' favorites from all over the world, with a few innovative alterations of his own (Cashin, 1980). It also was decided that the natural beauty of the Fruitlands property, with its magnolia-lined drive and its many remaining ornamental plants, would be utilized in the course design as much as possible. Each of the 18 holes was named for and adorned with a plant that was already growing on the property or that was known to thrive in the southern United States. This is where the horticultural expertise of P. J. A. Berckmans, Jr. and Louis A. Berckmans re-entered the history of the Fruitlands property (The Masters, 2002). The course opened in 1932 and Bobby Jones played the first round (Cashin, 1980). Ultimately, the Augusta National far exceeded Jones' expectations, becoming one of the most exclusive clubs in the world, and annually hosts the Masters Golf Tournament. It even became a favorite getaway for President Dwight D. Eisenhower and, in 1952 a small cottage was built for him and the First Lady on the club grounds (NRHP, 1979).

The Property Today

Some of the well-known Fruitlands plants that were still surviving on the property in the 1930s, and that continue to survive are the magnolias, live oaks, wisteria, many azalia varieties, camellias, the Spanish cork oak, golden arborvitae, lemon hedge, amur privet hedge, and Chinese firs (NRHP, 1979). The Augusta National has become an American treasure listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1979). Presently the cupola room of the clubhouse, known as the crow's nest, is an overnight quarter reserved for the top Masters' amateurs (Dolch, 2001). The golf champions of today can look across the Augusta National course and still get a sense of what it was like for Dennis Redmond and Prosper J. A. Berckmans, Sr. when they stood in the same location and viewed the beauty that was Fruitlands.

[The previous article was prepared as a graduate project under the direction of Jim Cothran, adjunct professor, in Georgia State University's Heritage Preservation Program.]

Augusta Chronicle

1912 "\$100,000 given for a crop of peaches". June, VOL. CXXVI NO. 163 Augusta, Georgia.

1938 "L. A. Berckmans, Landscaper Dies." February 8, (continued on page 11)

Special thanks to the Cherokee Garden Library, Atlanta History Center for use of photographs from the Prosper Jules Alphonse Berckmans Collection, MSS 961, and to the Rome Museum in Rome, Georgia for use of images from their Berckmans Collection files. The author also acknowledges the contributions of Mrs. Caroline Berckmans Davis of Atlanta, Georgia, and Dr. C. J. Wyatt of Rome, Georgia. Caroline Davis is the daughter of Robert Craig Berckmans and granddaughter of Prosper Jules Alphonse Berckmans, Sr.; Dr. Wyatt is the first patron of the Rome Museum.

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2003 Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference

A Genius and His Legacy: Frederick Law Olmsted in the South is the theme of the 14th conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes, to be held in Old Salem, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, September 25-27. The year 2003 celebrates the 100th anniversary of Olmsted's death.

Olmsted (1822-1903), who first gained fame as the designer and creator with Calvert Vaux of Central Park in New York City, designed park systems, cemetery and exposition grounds, university campuses, and landscapes for public buildings across the national landscape. He is credited with creating the role of the professional landscape architect.

While a figure of New England and the Northeast, the South has a special claim on Olmsted's talents through his work, begun in 1888, on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. Other Olmsted-designed landscapes were in Louisville, Atlanta, and Baltimore. The influence of Olmsted and his firm, felt in almost every city and town in the Southern states, will be examined at the conference by a

panel of speakers who are scholars and authorities on Olmsted and the firm, or who are landscape architects for various restorations of Olmsted landscapes in the South. The keynote speaker will be Charles E. Beveridge, series editor of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, American University, Washington, DC. His subject will be, "The significance of the South in the career of Frederick Law Olmsted."

The Southern Garden History Society, Old Salem, Inc., the Museum of Southern Decorative Arts, and Historic Stagville sponsor the conference. SGHS members will be mailed programs and registration materials for the conference about the first of May. This will be the first Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference to address the special challenges of restoring Southern gardens and landscapes of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

For additional information, contact Kay Bergey, landscape conference coordinator, at (336) 721-7378, or e-mail, bergeymk@wfu.org.

SOUTHERN GARDEN HERITAGE CONFERENCE PRESERVING HISTORIC GARDENS February 27 and 28, 2003

Historic garden owners, preservation professionals, as well as garden enthusiasts with a special interest in historic gardens and landscapes and their preservation, will want to highlight Thursday evening, February 27, and Friday, February 28, 2003, to attend the Southern Garden Heritage Conference in Athens, Georgia.

Growing interest in landscape/garden preservation and the involvement of numerous individuals, organizations, and agencies has brought about lively participation in developing strategies, plans, and "grassroots" efforts directed at preserving and restoring many of America's historic landscapes and gardens.

Utilizing Georgia and the neighboring states as a source of case studies and findings, the information presented at this conference will be especially interesting and informative for both garden enthusiasts and professional preservationists.

Speakers include: William Noble with the Garden Conservancy of Cold Spring, New York; Jennifer Rae Bigham, who is restoring Dunaway Gardens near Newnan,

Georgia; Professor Ian Firth, who will discuss his research on the gardens at the Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville, Georgia, along with other gardens and landscapes he has investigated, and James (Jim) Cothran, who will speak on the garden history of Georgia.

A special session of this program will be a report from the Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc., explaining the programs developed by that organization which provide a method whereby Georgia gardens in danger or in need of financial assistance can be identified, evaluated, and even be offered financial assistance to ensure their preservation.

For further information or a registration brochure, contact: Al Henderson, Georgia Center for Continuing Education at the University of Georgia, (706) 542-2237 or by e-mail at al.Henderson@gactr.uga.edu; or Neal Weatherly, Jr., School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia, (706) 542-0943, or by email at nweath@arches.uga.edu. To register online, use the Georgia Center Web site: www.gactr.uga.edu.

Members in the News

SGHS vice president **James Cothran** of Atlanta was elected a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects at the annual meeting of the ASLA in San Jose, California on October 23, 2002. Cothran, a graduate of Clemson University, the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology, joined the architectural firm of Robert and Company in 1970 and has served as its vice president for over 25 years. He recently was elected Trustee of the Georgia Chapter ASLA and currently serves on the boards of Trees Atlanta, the Cherokee Garden Library, the Southern Garden History Society, and the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation.

SGHS member **Scott Kunst**, owner of Old House Gardens heirloom bulbs company in Ann Arbor, Michigan, appeared on several episodes of ABC's *Martha Stewart Living*. The tapings occurred last October in Martha's backyard at Turkey Hill in Westport, Connecticut and the first segment on storing dahlias and other tender bulbs aired on November 15, 2002. Two other segments, one on heirloom bulbs and Old House Gardens (Kunst's mail-order business) and the other on planting heirloom bulbs, aired November 29, the day after Thanksgiving. Among the bulbs planted on her show were the classic Southern Campernelle Narcissus grown for OHG from heirloom stock in Texas. [Editor's note: Two years ago, Kunst's heirloom tulips, including the dark purple 'Philippe de Comines' and 'Greuze', were featured in a bouquet on the cover of *Martha Stewart Living* magazine.] For a list of all bulbs offered by Old House Gardens, visit their Web site at: www.oldhousegardens.com

In November 2002, *Magnolia* editor **Peggy Cornett** was interviewed on Texas PBS station KLRU-TV in Austin for a January 2003 broadcast of *Central Texas Gardener*. The interview featured the gardens at Monticello and the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The Anchorage Foundation, Inc., of New Braunfels, Texas, has awarded SGHS an unrestricted grant in honor of **Dr. William C. Welch** of College Station, Texas. Dr. Welch is professor and extension landscape horticulturist with the Texas A&M university system. He is a former president of the society, and chaired the society's publications committee for many years. **P. M. (Pete) Schlumberger**, president of The Anchorage Foundation, and his wife **Lesley** also are SGHS members.

Flora Ann Bynum of Winston-Salem has received an award from The Garden Club of America "In appreciation for her effort to promote historic garden research and restoration throughout the South." The award was sponsored by the Twin City Garden Club of Winston-Salem and presented at the club's annual Christmas luncheon in December.

Judith B. Tankard, former editor of the Journal of the New England Garden History Society, has a forthcoming article in the March/April 2003 issue of *Horticulture* magazine entitled "Splendor Restored" about Ellen Biddle Shipman's Italian garden at the Cummer Museum of Art in Jacksonville, Florida.

The January 3, 2003 issue of New Orleans' *Times-Picayune* contains a feature on **Sally Reeves**, curator of the notarial archives of Orleans Parish and editor of *The New Louisiana Gardener*, who has recently secured a federal grant to restore some of the earliest real-estate documents existing of the city. These ancient contracts are seen as a rich source of social history, comprising some of the few surviving records of life in New Orleans before the two great fires that burned the city to the ground in 1788 and 1794.



Sally Reeves, caretaker of the notarial archives of Orleans Parish, has secured a federal grant to restore some of the ancient ravaged documents, some of the only records existing of New Orleans before the 1788 and 1794 fires.

Corrections

The cover photo for the Summer/Fall 2002 Commemorative Issue of *Magnolia* is of "The Elms." The photo on page 3 of the same issue is of Faith Bybee in Round Top, Texas.

Fall SGHS Board Meeting in Montgomery, Alabama

The fall 2002 SGHS board meeting was held September 27-29 in Montgomery, Alabama, with Mr. and Mrs. James I. Barganier and Dr. and Mrs. Edgar G. Givhan II as hosts to the group.

Fredericksburg, Virginia, was selected as the site of the society's annual meeting in 2005. Kenneth M. McFarland, director of preservation and education for Stratford Hall Plantation in Stratford, Virginia, extended the invitation to the society. He and his wife, Beate Jensen, who is gardener for Belmont in Fredericksburg, will co-chair the event.

The board voted to accept with many thanks a report on the spring annual meeting in Natchez, Mississippi, sent by Dr. Elizabeth Boggess, meeting chair.

Board members Betsy Crusel and Sally Reeves reported on the 2004 annual meeting of the society, to be held in New Orleans April 22-24, 2004. They have reserved an entire hotel of one hundred rooms in the French Quarter for the meeting. James R. Cothran, chair of the 2003 annual meeting to be held in Atlanta, reviewed and received approval for plans for the meeting.

The board also heard and discussed reports on finances, membership, Web site, by-laws revision, and the society's plant list for the South. Under the guidance of the meeting hosts, board members toured a number of homes and gardens and landscapes of note in and around Montgomery.

New Board Members Elected at Natchez Meeting

New officers and four new board members were elected at the annual meeting of the society, held in Natchez, Mississippi, in April 2002. Elected president was Gordon W. Chappell of Williamsburg, Virginia, and vice-president, James R. Cothran of Atlanta, Georgia. Flora Ann Bynum of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

New board members are Ruth Coy of Richmond, Kentucky, and of Natchez, Mississippi; Susan Haltom of Ridgeland, Mississippi; and Jeanne Symmes Reid of Greenville, South Carolina. Nancy Haywood of Houston, Texas was re-elected to the board.

Kenneth M. McFarland of Stratford, Virginia, retired as president and will serve as immediate past president.

Retiring from the board after serving two terms of three years each were Dr. Elizabeth Boggess of Natchez; Dr. Edgar G. Givhan of Montgomery, Alabama; and Barbara W. Sarudy of Monkton, Maryland.

Honorary Board Members

The society's board of directors also elected four honorary board members at its fall 2002 meeting. These are Dr. Edgar G. Givhan II of Montgomery, Alabama; Florence Griffin of Atlanta, Georgia; Ben G. Page, Jr., of Nashville, Tennessee; and Dr. William C. Welch of College Station, Texas. According to the society's by-laws, these honorary directors may attend meetings of the board and may make recommendations to the board, but shall not have the power to vote.

Dr. Givhan was president of the society May 1988-90. He and his wife Peggy coordinated the 1986 annual meeting in Montgomery, and Dr. Givhan chaired the 1995 annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama. In addition, he has hosted two board meetings. In the early days of the society, his office maintained the membership lists, and handled the printing and mailing of *Magnolia*.

Florence Griffin was one of the founding directors in 1982, was the first secretary-treasurer in 1982-84, and president of the society May 1992-94. She chaired the first annual meeting, held in Atlanta in 1983. For several years she chaired the society's publications committee, and the *Magnolia* logo for the news bulletin and stationery was designed under her direction. The first *Magnolia* Essays was published in 1993 under her guidance when she was president.

Ben Page was society president May 1994-96. He with his wife Libby hosted the 1998 annual meeting in Nashville, and assisted Duncan Callicott in hosting the second board meeting, in 1982, in Nashville. He served a number of terms on the board, beginning in 1984, and is a founding member of the society.

Dr. William Welch was president of the society May 1996-98, and with his wife Diane hosted the 1993 annual meeting in Brenham, Texas. As chair of the society's publications committee, he oversaw the publication of *The New Louisiana Gardener*. Bill served several terms on the board of directors.

Efforts to Preserve Elizabeth Lawrence Garden in Charlotte

The Garden Conservancy has invited representatives of the Southern Garden History Society to meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Tuesday, March 4 to discuss the preservation of the Elizabeth Lawrence garden. Representatives from other garden history and preservation groups in North and South Carolina also have been invited to attend.

The Garden Conservancy has offered to help Lindie Wilson, owner of the garden, examine whether a strategy can be developed that will succeed in preserving the garden to protect the legacy of the late Elizabeth Lawrence, renowned Southern garden writer and horticulturist.

Invitations to attend the meeting were sent jointly by William Noble of The Garden Conservancy staff, and Patti McGee, SGHS board member and Conservancy board member.

The Plant Reporter on Sunset Hibiscus

By Flora Ann Bynum, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Sunset hibiscus (*Abelmoschus manihot*) attracted much attention in our flower garden last summer. It is in the same genus as okra, and the kinship really shows. It has a clear soft yellow, very large, single blossom, like a hibiscus, and like okra. The leaves and pods resemble that of okra. The stems are quite prickly, again okra-like. Some of my plants were six feet tall or more.

Interestingly, sunset hibiscus was grown in the Salem area long ago. C. F. Denke (1775-1838), a Moravian minister and missionary who lived in and around Salem in his retirement years, mentions it in a letter of October 3, 1826, written from Friedberg, a small Moravian town near Salem, to his friend, Lewis David von Schweinitz, writing: "I saw a beautiful spec: Hibiscus, perhaps Manihot Spalmatus Persoons - from Georgia, here in a garden; I will find out if I can send you some seeds." For years I puzzled, what plant could this be? Then one day I saw in *Hortus Third* that the older botanical name for sunset hibiscus was *Hibiscus*

manihot and I realized what plant Denke meant.

Sunset hibiscus is grown in our area as an annual, although it is perennial in warmer areas. It is listed in several garden catalogues as well as with



Monticello's Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. It is easy to grow, and self seeds. Plants came up -and survived this summer - in between the bricks of my patio, where last year I had thrown plants pulled up from the garden. Seeds obviously had come out of the pods and spilled into the cracks. I have given many seed pods away. One man asked last summer if he could come back when the pods matured and get one. His grandmother grew sunset hibiscus and he had never seen it since.

Sunset hibiscus likes full sun but will tolerate light shade. It wilts down if it does not get water for a couple of days, but quickly revives with a good soaking. *Hortus Third* lists it as native to tropical Asia.

In Print

Proceedings of the 9th International Heritage Rose Conference, held in Charleston, South Carolina, October 14-18, 2001, are now available through the Antique Rose Emporium. This major international conference, which focused on the Noisette, Charleston's signature rose variety, featured notable authors and rose experts from across the globe including Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson of Vintage Roses in California; Malcolm Manners, professor and DNA expert at Florida Southern College in Lakeland; Mike Shoup, owner of Antique Rose Emporium; South Africa's renowned rose authority Gwen Fagan; Rosamund Wallinger, owner of the Gertrude Jekyll garden in Upton Grey; Texas rose man Greg Grant; musk rose fancier Marie Butler of Virginia; Bermuda rose preservationist Marijke Peterich; Australian rose historian Trevor Nottle; Odile Masquelier authority on the French Noisettes; and Charleston's rose master Ruth Knopf.



This handsome, perfect-bound, soft cover publication can be purchased through the Antique Rose Emporium, 9300 Lueckemeyer Road, Brenham, Texas 77833-6453 (roses@intdustryinet.com). Individual copies, which may be paid for by check, Visa, Mastercard, or Discover, are \$13.50 (\$10 plus \$3.50 shipping for the US and Canada), or \$18.50 (\$10 plus \$8.50 shipping) to all other countries. Groups or individuals can buy the book in bulk quantities of 15 or more for \$7 each plus a reduced shipping rate. To order, contact the Antique Rose Emporium at (800) 441-0002. For customer service, call (979) 836-9051 or Fax (979) 836-0928 Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT. The book is 122 pages, plus 14 unnumbered pages of color photos in the center.

Publications Available Through SGHS

The New Louisiana Gardener - *Nouveau Jardinier de la Louisiane*, 1838
publication by Jacques-Felix Lelièvre and translated into English by Sally Kittredge Reeves. Published by LSU press in cooperation with SGHS. Hardcover. 186 pages with color photographs and halftones. Specially priced for SGHS members at \$25 (plus \$3.95 postage). *NC orders add 7% sales tax.*

Bound Sets of Magnolia Back Issues. Includes Vol. I, No. 1 (Fall 1984) through Vol. XIV, No. 4 (Winter/Spring 1999), with index. \$50. Price includes postage and tax.

Individual Back Issues of Magnolia: \$5 each, including postage and tax.

Breaking Ground: *Examining the Vision and Practice of Historic Landscape Restoration*, (1997 proceedings of Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference at Old Salem.). \$10 (plus \$3.95 postage). *NC orders add 7% sales tax.*

The Influence of Women on the Southern Landscape, (1995 proceedings of conference cited above). \$10 (plus \$3.95 postage). *NC orders add 7% sales tax.*

SPECIAL OFFER: If purchasing both **Breaking Ground** and **The Influence of Women**, the total cost for the two volumes is \$15 (plus \$3.95 postage). *NC orders add 7% sales tax.*

Send orders to: Kay Bergey, publications secretary, SGHS, c/o Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27108.

NOTE: Checks payable to **SGHS** for *Nouveau Jardinier* and *Magnolias*. Checks payable to **Old Salem, Inc.** for *Breaking Ground* and *The Influence of Women*. For information call (336) 721-7378 or e-mail: bergeymk@wfu.edu

Annual Membership Dues

Benefactor	\$250	Joint/husband-wife	\$30
Patron	\$150	Individual	\$20
Sustainer	\$75	Student	\$5
Institution/Business	\$30		
Life membership	\$1,000 (<i>one time</i>)		

The membership year runs from May 1 to April 30.
Members joining after January 1 will be credited for the coming year beginning May 1.

Write to membership secretary at:

Southern Garden History Society,
Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station,
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108
phone (336) 721-7328
www.southerngardenhistory.org

Deadline for the submission of articles for the spring issue of Magnolia is February 28, 2003.

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