



Magnolia

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

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The Great Plant Hunters of Colonial Virginia

by Terry Yemm, Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia

The fascinating saga of plant collecting during America's colonial period can be viewed as two centuries of "treasure-hunting in paradise." However, the various accounts of plant introductions into the gardens of the world contain themes other than the simple excitement of discovery. Interwoven with the growing list of plants brought to Europe from Virginia was the corresponding growth of botany as a science. In the Age of Enlightenment, plant collectors were contributing to an even greater effort in all disciplines to expand the body of knowledge about the natural world.

For many early botanical explorers, this intense pursuit focused particularly upon the native flora of Virginia.

The first recognized collector to visit Virginia was part of an early expedition to the region. Thomas Harriot, like so many of those who would follow him, came to America in 1585 as a young man of twenty-five. Born in Oxford in 1560, he was already an acknowledged scholar of science when he accompanied the first colonists to Roanoke Island off the coast of present day



John White's first map of Virginia. Photo courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Continued on page 2 . . .

**Inside
this
Issue**

Page 8	Plans Underway for Mobile Meeting
Page 8	In Memory of Louise Farrand Wood
Page 8	Creating the Biltmore Estate
Page 10	Book Review

Calendar

Ended January 7th, 1995. An exhibition, "The Most Distinguished Private Place: Creating the Biltmore Estate" at the Octagon Museum, Washington, DC. (see article, page 8) The schedule for the traveling exhibition is as follows:

January 28th–April 30th, 1995 at Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center, Forrest Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37205. 615-352-5310 **September 24th–November 26th, 1995** at Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL. **January–April, 1996** at South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC..

Through April 23rd, 1995. "Samuel Parsons Jr. and the Art of Landscape Architecture." An exhibition at Wave Hill curated by Charles Birnbaum of the National Park Services Historical Landscape Initiative. Parsons (1844–1923) served with the New York City Parks Department for thirty years. Additionally, he maintained a large private practice that included the design of Glen Iris Park in Birmingham, AL; the residential landscape of Albemarle Park in Asheville, NC; and the grounds of Elmendorf Stables in Lexington, KY among others. Albemarle Park and Elmendorf are featured in the exhibition. For more information contact: Catha Grace Rambusch, Wave Hill, 675 West 252nd St., Bronx, NY 10471. (718) 549-3200.

February 3rd–5th, 1995. ALFHAM Southeast Region Annual Meeting to be held in Tallahassee,



Florida. Speakers include SGHS member Cinder Stanton, director of research at Monticello, on interpreting the African-American experience through archaeological and ethnographic research. Contact: Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Science, 3945 Museum Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310. (904) 575-8684 or (904) 488-1484.

March 2nd–5th and March 23rd–26th, 1995.

"Digging up Dirt on Colonial Americans: Historical Archaeology Today." Colonial Williamsburg Learning Weekends highlight the seventy-year history of archaeology in the restoration of Williamsburg. Contact Deborah Chapman, (804) 220-7255 or write Learning Weekend Registrar, Colonial Williamsburg, P. O. Box 1776, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1776.

March 30th–April 1st, 1995. "The Image of the Garden in Western Culture." This conference will explore "the garden" through its formative images, secularization, and romantic transformation. Dr. Stephen J. Tonsor, intellectual historian from the University of Michigan, is the featured speaker. The conference is sponsored by Rose Hill, a fully restored Victorian "Winter Colony" residence in the historic district of Aiken, SC. To register contact: Rose Hill Garden Conference, P. O. Box 3126, Aiken, SC 29802. (803) 641-1614; FAX (803) 641-0240.

April 18th–22nd, 1995. Gardens of the Mississippi. A travel-study program offered by the American Horticultural Society. Participants will take a

Continued on page 9...

Plant Hunters

continued from page one

North Carolina. Sent at the behest of Sir Walter Raleigh, Harriot has been described as "geographer" and "scientific advisor" of the party. The explorers remained in the New World for less than a year, but from the descriptions included in Harriot's book, *A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia*, he apparently traveled in both the Virginia and North Carolina of today. He may have visited many of the locations included in the first map of Virginia drawn by John White. Later, White led the ill-fated expedition to Roanoke Island that became known as the "Lost Colony."

Like so many natural histories published about the "new found land," Harriot's book marveled at the land, climate, and the exotic new plants and animals of Virginia. Skeptics of colonial natural histories often dismiss the excitement and glowing descriptions in such works as thinly disguised promotional advertising for prospective colonists. I am convinced, however, that the wonder and potential expressed in their accounts was genuine. Native plants which caught Harriot's attention included: Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua* L.; Staghorn Sumac, *Rhus typhina* L.; Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana* L. (which he



compared to European medlars); and Red Mulberry, *Morus rubra* L.

He is credited with introducing the following to the English landscape: *Apios americana* Medicus, a member of the pea family; American Chestnut, *Castanea dentata* (Marshall) Borkh.; Sunflower, *Helianthus annuus* L.; and Indian corn or Maize, *Zea mays* L. along with several other plants of ornamental or utilitarian value. Botany as a science, however, was essentially in an embryonic stage by the end of the sixteenth century. Therefore, Harriot, who would become a noted mathematician and astronomer before his death in 1621, was not concerned with systematically documenting what plants he brought back to England. Instead, Harriot's plant introductions are inferred by their appearance documented in English gardens of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

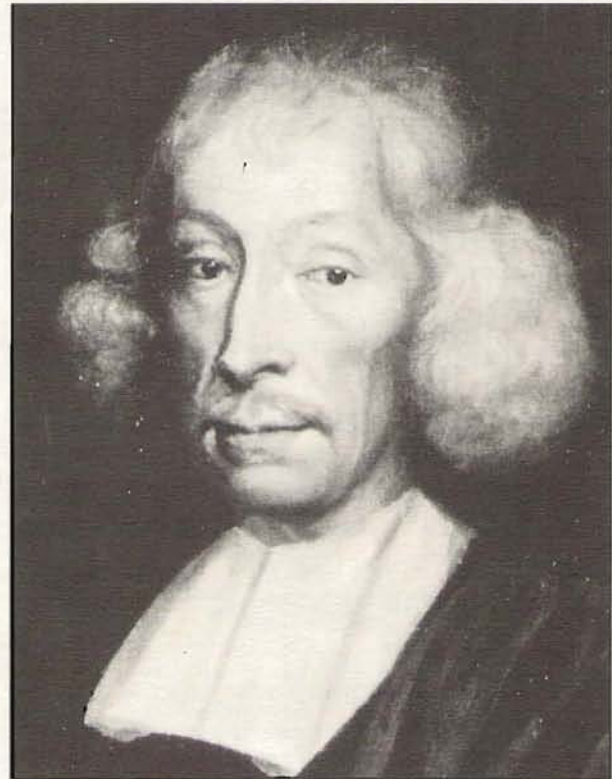
The gardens of this period were generally those of the apothecaries. Most scholarly study of plants by that time concentrated on their medicinal potential, and botany and medicine as disciplines were just beginning to diverge. Therefore, it is not surprising to find the earliest documentary references to American native plants in English gardens, whether utilitarian or ornamental, appearing in the herbals published then. Several plant introductions credited to Thomas Harriot were among the plants listed in John Gerard's *Garden at Holborn*, published in 1596, or in the *Herbal* Gerard published in 1597. Apothecary Thomas Johnson posthumously edited Gerard's *Herbal* in 1633, adding around eight hundred new plants to the initial listing.

Four years earlier, in 1629, apothecary John Parkinson published his *Paradisi in sole Paradisus Terrestris*. This work has the distinction of being the first English catalogue in book form devoted equally between the ornamental qualities and the utilitarian characteristics of plants. It listed nearly one thousand plants and contained the first references of about fifteen new American species growing in England. Parkinson cited John Tradescant's gardens as the source for several of his most recent acquisitions.

John Tradescant, usually referred to as "the Elder" to distinguish him from his son of the same name, became royal gardener for King Charles I at Oatlands Palace in 1630. Tradescant had close ties with many notables in early seventeenth-century botanical circles and had worked for several members of the peerage as both gardener and collector of rare plants. He had

participated in several military and diplomatic missions during the first decades of the seventeenth century that allowed him to add to his assembly of unusual rarities. This collection became known as "Tradescant's Ark."

The Ark became the first public museum to open in England and was an overt statement of the Age of Enlightenment. Encouraged by the words of such philosophers as Francis Bacon, the students of that era began analyzing God's system of natural organization by collecting examples of its variety. Rapid expansion of British exploration and colonization in the



Portrait of John Ray. Photo courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Printed with permission from the British Museum of Natural History.

seventeenth century provided abundant opportunities to collect specimens. Tradescant's Ark included curiosities from both the natural and artificial world. Along with gems, stones, stuffed birds, and bones he included rare coins, tools, accessories, and the clothing of unusual people.

It was through Captain John Smith that Powhatan's Mantle and other Virginia artifacts were included in Tradescant's Ark, and their friendship probably explains the introduction of several Virginia native plants not previously noted in English garden lists before 1634. Smith, of Jamestown, visited several parts

of the "new found land," and like Thomas Harriot, published accounts of his exploration of Virginia. In 1612 he issued his *Map of Virginia with a Description of the Country . . .*, and two years later he published *The General Historie of*



industrious searcher, and lover of all natures varieties, John Tradescant, first received it of a friend, that brought it out of Virginia, thinking it to be the Silke Grasse that groweth there, and hath imparted hereof, as of many other things,

both to me and others." This description shows both how Tradescant had obtained many Virginia natives before 1633 and the collaborative approach taken by many members of a developing, worldwide botanical network.

New World additions continued to flow into the gardens at Lambeth even after the death of John the Elder in 1638. Possibly the first increase came upon the return of John Tradescant the Younger from his first voyage to Virginia at the King's request. (It was apparently this trip that caused the younger John to be absent from his father's funeral.) The younger Tradescant, born in 1608, followed in his father's occupation. He had attended the King's School at Canterbury while his father was gardener for Edward, Lord Wotton at St. Augustine's in Canterbury. John the Younger was admitted to the Company of Gardeners in December 1634 and succeeded his father as royal gardener at Oatlands.

With the outbreak of Civil War in 1642, John the Younger had little opportunity to enjoy the fruits of his labors. Like most of the English artisans and scholars supported by the patronage of the court, he doubted his chances for prosperity (and perhaps survival) during the turmoil of the war and the oppression of the republic. While many royalists sailed to France for safe haven, Tradescant instead returned for his second visit to America beginning in 1642, followed by a third visit that began in 1653.

The younger Tradescant included his recent acquisitions in a catalogue of the entire contents of the Ark that he published in 1656, entitled *Musaeum Tradescantianum*. New World additions since his father's catalogue included the following: Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* L.; Sensitive Plant, *Mimosa sensitiva* L.; Coral Vine, *Lonicera sempervirens* L.; Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis* L.; and Bladdernut, *Staphylea trifolia* L. Four years after the publication of *Musaeum Tradescantianum*, King Charles II was restored to the throne. Before John the Younger could take advantage of the newly favorable atmosphere for dedicated royalists, the gardener died in 1662. This began the saga over control of the Tradescants' collection that would later become the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford



The European Medlar as illustrated in John Gerard's The Herbal or General History of Plants, 1633.

Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles.

In 1634 John Tradescant the Elder published a list of plants in the garden by his home and museum at South Lambeth, near London. The pamphlet, entitled *Plantarum in Horto*, gives the names of more than seven hundred fifty plants. Included among new species from around the world were the following probable Virginia natives: *Clematis virginiana* (which one authority has equated with the modern *Matelea carolinensis* (Jacquin) Woodson.); *Geranium virginianum* (*G. maculatum* L.), and *Rosa virginiana*. Another Virginia native included in Tradescant's catalogue, *Phalangium virginianum* (today's *Tradescantia virginiana* L.), had been published previously in Parkinson's *Paradisi in Sole*. The apothecary had described this plant in the following manner: "This Spider-wort is of late knowledge, and for it the Christian world is indebted unto that painfull

University. The plants in the Lambeth garden were abandoned. Although some were thought to have persisted for many decades, today no trace of the exotic collection survives on the site.

Britain's Civil War slowed the rapid accumulation of examples of the world's variety before 1642. This damper upon the gathering of information encouraged an examination of the material already collected. As scholars recognized the quantity and complexity of the examples, they in turn saw the need to gather and assess the results of their individual investigations. This gave rise to academies sometimes called "Invisible Colleges" that combined to become the Royal Society in 1662. Initially botany was of lesser interest to the general membership, compared to the higher sciences of mathematics and physics. However, several more influential members, such as John Evelyn, had strong interest in natural science and especially botany. Following the admission of scientists like John Ray in 1667, the Society rapidly expanded its examination into botany.

Ray, born in Essex in 1627, was a graduate of Cambridge. He continued his studies while teaching at Cambridge until his Puritan beliefs forced him to refuse the oath of uniformity in 1662. This cost him his fellowship with Trinity College. In 1660 he published a catalogue of the flora growing around Cambridge and established himself as a natural historian. Ray expanded this botanical compilation with the *Catalogus Plantarum Angliae* in 1670. He continued to gather examples of botanical variation while also becoming concerned with the development of a system for organizing the many plants known in the world. He is credited with the acceptance of species as the basic unit of taxonomy. In 1682 he published *Methodus Plantarum Nova* that established the taxonomic importance of the difference between monocotyledons (plants with one seed leaf), and dicotyledons (plants germinating with two leaves). Ray published the greatest expression of his taxonomic system for botany in the three volume work, *Historia Plantarum*, between 1686 and 1704. Included as an appendix to the set was a list of new Virginia plants entitled "Catalogo plantarum seipso in Virginia observatarum."

This list was the product of the efforts of the next major plant explorer after Tradescant the Younger known to have collected in Virginia, John Banister. Banister was born around 1650 and graduated from Oxford. Apparently his botanical explorations of the

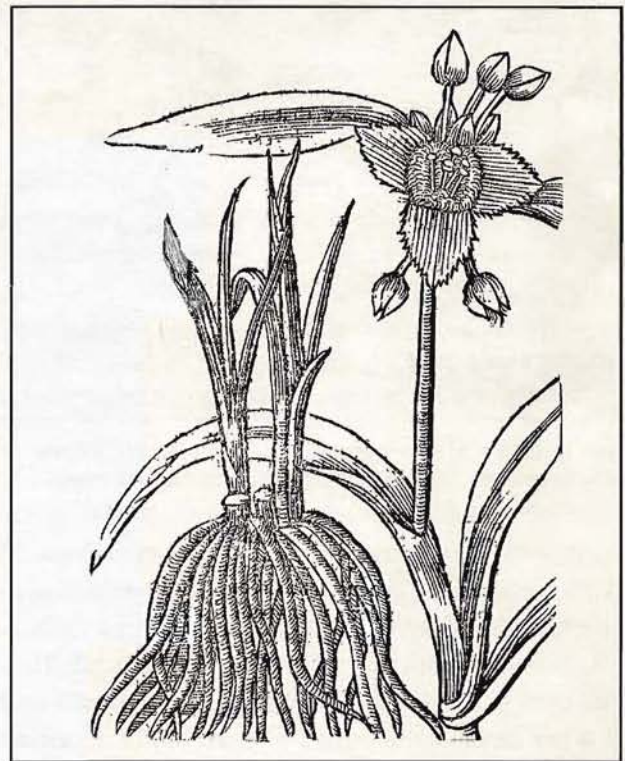


New World were sponsored jointly by several members of the Royal Society, including a colonial named William Byrd I, along with Henry Compton, Bishop of London. Compton, intensely interested in collecting rare plants,

often used his position to further the extent of exotics in his Fulham Palace garden until his death in 1713.

Banister arrived in Virginia in 1678 and began his duties as the rector of Charles Court parish. Until his accidental death in 1692, he continued to send back both living and preserved plants to various members of the botanical network in England. His preserved specimens and sketches were eventually included among the collection of Leonard Plukenet and today are preserved in the Natural History Museum in London. These specimens, along with surviving Banister specimens in other collections, are among the earliest attributable herbaria made in this country. It is believed he introduced from Virginia to England the following: Sweetbay, *Magnolia virginiana* L.; Swamp Azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum* (L.) Torrey; Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea* (L.) Moench.; and Virginia Bluebell, *Mertensia virginica* (L.) Persoon.

During the 1680s and 1690s several more agents for English collectors joined Banister's efforts in



"John Tradescant's Spider-wort" as illustrated in the 1629 edition of John Parkinson's *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris*.

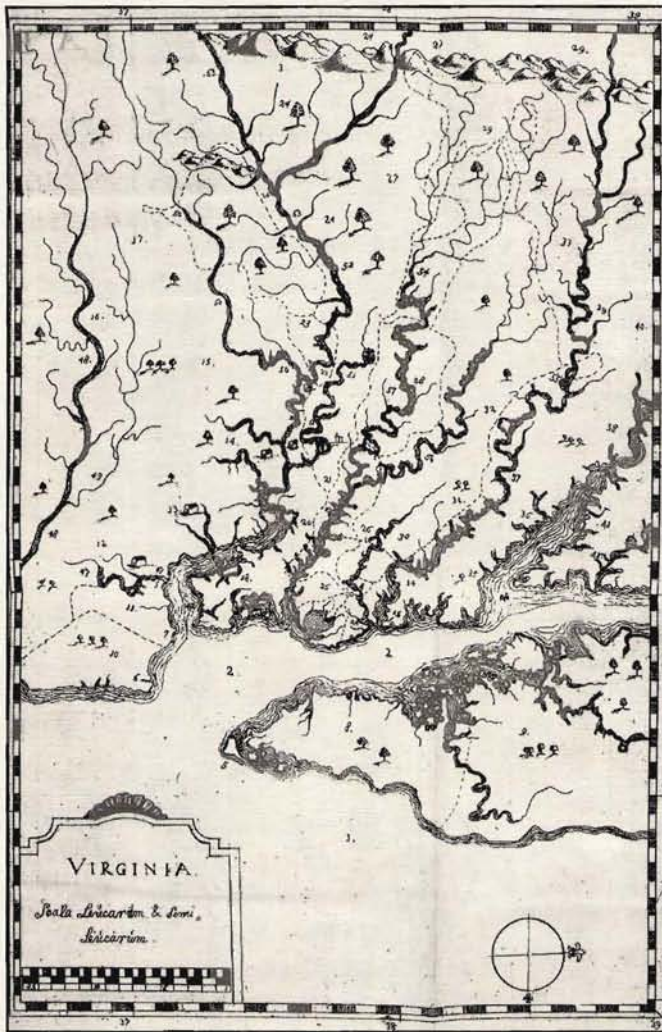
Virginia. Among them was the Reverend John Clayton, sent by Bishop Compton to be the rector at Jamestown. While he ministered to his parish between 1684 and 1686, the Reverend Clayton also corresponded with fellow members of the Royal Society. In one letter to scientist Robert Boyle he included an "Account of Virginia" which is credited with being "... the first scientific description



arrive until 1712. Mark Catesby came to America at the age of twenty-nine with some botanical skill. He profited from an intellectual association with like-minded Virginians such as William Byrd II, a member of the Royal Society like his father before him, and John Custis, who was related by marriage and shared an interest in gardening. The libraries and conversations of such informed members of the Virginia gentry certainly encouraged Catesby to pursue botany. He remained in Virginia seven years except for a brief visit to Jamaica and Bermuda in 1714.

Catesby sent his specimens from Jamaica to Sir Hans Sloane, who was the Secretary of the Royal Society in 1714 and would eventually become President of the Society in 1727. Sloane had made his own collecting expedition to Jamaica in 1687–88 and published the results in 1696. Sloane and others encouraged Catesby to return to America to complete the first book-length scientific natural history of North America. After spending three years in Charleston, South Carolina (1722–1725), Catesby returned to England to prepare his book. Supporters of his work included Royal Society member Peter Collinson, a Quaker merchant who was a central link in the world's botanical community. Patrons such as Collinson enabled Catesby to publish his *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* in two volumes after twenty more years of work. This was the first botanical work published by an author who had visited Virginia and sent corroborating specimens back to England. Many of his specimens still survive as part of the Sherard Herbarium at Oxford. Some Catesby introductions to Britain include Sweet Shrub, *Calycanthus floridus* L.; Beauty Berry, *Callicarpa americana* L.; Lance-leaved Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata* L.; and the American Wisteria, *Wisteria frutescens* (L.) Poir.

The next significant collector to come to Virginia arrived shortly before Catesby's departure in 1719. John Clayton followed his immigrant father of the same name to Virginia around 1715. The young Clayton probably joined his father when he had completed his education in England. He became the Clerk of Gloucester County Court and retained that position until his death in 1773 at the age of seventy-nine. During his long life he constantly studied the flora of the colony and was a recognized authority both at home and across the Atlantic. He corresponded with many notable botanists of his day, including Alexander Garden and John Bartram in America and Peter



Map of John Clayton's travels to collect plants. Photo courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

of Virginia from a strictly natural history standpoint." A part of this correspondence included a sketched map of Jamestown Island.

With the death of John Banister, a relative lull occurred in the flurry of Virginia botanical exploration. It is not clear whether this was the result of uncertainty during the royal succession, or the deaths of many founding members of the Society. Whatever the cause, the next major English collector in Virginia did not

Collinson, Carolus Linnaeus, and John Frederick Gronovius in Europe.

Gronovius took advantage of Clayton by publishing an unauthorized copy of the Virginian's manuscript, "Catalogue of Plants, Fruits and Trees Native to Virginia," in book form as *Flora Virginica* between 1739–1743. Possibly frustrated by such ungentlemanly behavior, Clayton began accumulating material for his own book on Virginia plants and sent a manuscript to England for publication. Lamentably, no one was found to publish the work, so it was returned to the author. Both the manuscript and Clayton's personal herbarium were eventually destroyed by fires. Of the specimens that Clayton sent to Europe, two series survive at the British Museum of Natural History and with the Linnaean Society. Among the plants Clayton collected from Virginia are Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica* L.; Leatherflower, *Clematis viorna* L.; and Poison Ivy, *Rhus radicans* L. It has been estimated that four to five-hundred species of eastern North American plants named by Linnaeus "rest for their typification upon the specimens described by Gronovius in the first edition of his *Flora Virginica*." (A herbarium "type" is the specimen from which the first description of its kind



was made.)

The first native Virginian to play an important role in the progress of botany as a science was Dr. John Mitchell. Virginia historians

best know him for his Map of the British Colonies in North America published in 1750. Born in Lancaster County, Virginia in 1711, and educated at the University of Edinburgh, he returned to Urbanna, Virginia around 1731. Mitchell spent the next fifteen years avidly collecting specimens and corresponding with many scientific authorities in America and overseas. He was preparing a manuscript about the natural history of Virginia when, in 1746, his chronic ill health prompted him to sell his property and move to London. His dismay was extreme when privateers boarded his ship and confiscated his specimens and notes, ruining years of work. While some materials eventually returned, Mitchell was never able to achieve the botanical recognition he sought with his plans to publish. Nonetheless, Mitchell was viewed as a botanical authority in the Royal Society and he even challenged Linnaeus on taxonomic issues.

The life of the final major collector of Virginia flora in the colonial period spans more than three quarters of a century. John Bartram of Philadelphia lived from 1699 to 1777. After sending seeds and other plants to Peter Collinson in 1730, his reputation as a botanist grew among scholars. Bartram discovered most of his Virginia specimens during visits to the region in 1738 and again around 1760. After decades of effort on behalf of collectors in England, John Bartram was appointed King's Botanist in 1765. He is said to have introduced as many as two-hundred species to cultivation, including: Cucumber Tree, *Magnolia acuminata* L.; Franklin Tree, *Gordonia alata* Muhl. Sarg. [*Franklinia alata* Muhl. Sarg.]; Bee Balm, *Monarda didyma* L.; and the Fringe Tree, *Chionanthus virginicus* L.

With Bartram's death the era of the great botanical collectors of the colonial period came to rest. Within the nearly two-hundred year span from the day Thomas Harriot stepped ashore on the Virginia coastline until John Bartram passed out of Virginia into North Carolina on his expedition south, thousands of New World plants crossed the Atlantic to England and Europe. The understanding of the plant kingdom provided by those new species shaped botanical taxonomy from its very beginnings as a science ♦



The native Stagbhorn Sumac, described as the "Buckshorne Tree" in Gerard's Herbal.

Plans Underway for Mobile Meeting

The thirteenth-annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society will take place in Mobile, Alabama on April 21st-23rd, 1995. Mobile is one of a handful of cities that, during its colonial period, fell under the sovereignty of all three major European colonial powers: France, Spain, and Britain. Speakers will examine how this has influenced Mobile's unique urban landscape today. Topics include an overview of the city's colonial history, the oaks of Mobile, a history of Mobile's architecture, and a discussion of the diaries of Bishop Portier who recorded the early nineteenth-century flora of the region. Additionally, slide presentations will focus on historic garden and house restoration in both urban and rural situations.

A walking tour of the Oakleigh Garden District will feature the revitalization of a nineteenth- and early twentieth-century neighborhood. This tour ends at Twelve Oaks, a lovely, nineteenth-century house on historic Washington Square. Tours of Resurrection Convent and Bellingrath Gardens are scheduled for Saturday afternoon following the lectures. The optional Sunday tours offer a choice of either Mobil Bay's Eastern Shore or the city's historic cemeteries with historian, John Sledge.

The conference will be held at the Adams-Mark Hotel, overlooking the Mobile riverfront and bay. The recently restored Dauphin Street and Bienville Square area is an easy walk from the hotel and a likely destination for SGHS members during conference "free time."

Registration packets will be mailed to all current members by late January, 1995. For more information contact conference registrar Holle Briskman, 1406 Brown St., Mobile, AL 36606. (205) 432-8471 ♦

Louisa Farrand Wood

It is with deep sadness that we note the death of Louisa Farrand Wood, who was in recent years a resident of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Mrs. Wood, a niece of Beatrice Farrand, was particularly well known for her garden design work and garden writing in and about Savannah. Many Southern Garden



History Society members will remember with special fondness the gracious welcome she gave us during our 1989 annual meeting in Savannah. There, we visited her personal garden and saw evidence of the help she had rendered to friends and neighbors in beautifying their own gardens. In addition, many of us acquired a copy of her book *Behind Those Garden Walls in Historic Savannah*. She will be greatly missed by the garden history community ♦

The Most Distinguished Private Place: Creating the Biltmore Estate

This magnificent residence in Asheville, North Carolina is the product of the collaborative genius of architect Richard Morris Hunt, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, and their client, George Washington Vanderbilt. On the centennial of its completion, The American Architectural Foundation has joined with the Biltmore Estate to commemorate this remarkable confluence of talent, energy, and resources. The exhibition was inspired by the discovery of four hundred Richard Morris Hunt design sketches and detailed drawings of the estate in the Prints and Drawings Collection of the Octagon Museum in Washington, DC. Ms. Sherry Birk, curator of the collection, served as project director and exhibition co-curator with John M. Bryan, author of the accompanying book, *G. W. Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate: The Most Distinguished Private Place*. William A. V. Cecil, CEO and president of Biltmore Company, and his staff have worked with The American Architectural Foundation's Octagon Museum to bring this project to fruition.

Begun in 1889 and occupied in 1895, the estate, with its elaborate chateau-style, 255-room house, once encompassed 125,000 acres, 122 miles of road, and the first scientifically managed forest in the country. As a "private place," Biltmore represents the brief period c. 1875-1914 when American millionaires used the arts in an attempt to establish themselves as an aristocracy of the European model. But beneath an aristocratic, French Renaissance exterior, the construction of the estate was coordinated using modern management practices promoted by the railroads, the source of Vanderbilt's wealth. Records of all types, which have been consistently and meticulously filed, provide the basis for this centennial review of the creation of Biltmore. For the schedule of this traveling exhibition, see the *Calendar* ♦

SGHS Fall Board Meeting in Nashville



Society's logo which will be available at the Mobile meeting.

Future publications for the Society were reviewed by Dr. William C. Welch, publications chair. It was decided to investigate the

translation and publication of *Nouveau Jardinier de la Louisianna*, 1838, a small work on gardening in Louisiana. Mrs. Robert H. (Louise) Gunn will investigate having *Magnolia* indexed.

The Board expressed much gratitude to Lawrence Henry for chairing a very successful meeting in Colonial Williamsburg last May. Three new board members were introduced: Mrs. Cornelius C. (Betsy) Crusel, Jr., Mrs. Gunn, and Mr. Henry.

The Board met in Nashville on October 7th in the home of SGHS president Mr. Ben G. Page, Jr. and his wife Libby. Board members toured the Shadow Nursery in Winchester as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Shadow and traveled on to Monteagle, Tennessee, for the business meeting ♣

Plans for the thirteenth-annual meeting of the Society, to be held in Mobile, Alabama, were reviewed by meeting chair, Dr. Edgar G. Givhan. (see *Calendar* and meeting preview on page 8.) Dates for the fourteenth-annual meeting, to be held on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where set for May 9th-12th, 1996. M. Edward Shull will serve as meeting chair with the Talbot County Historical Society as sponsor. The fifteenth-annual meeting will be either the third or fourth week of March, 1997 in Tallahassee, Florida. Mrs. Edwin (Wee) Broderson will chair this meeting which will be hosted by the Margaret E. Wilson Foundation at Goodwood Plantation in Tallahassee.

Board member Mrs. Julian S. (Anne) Carr, Sr. showed the board samples of tote bags with the

Calendar continued from page two

steamboat cruise aboard the Mississippi Queen to the great River Road Plantations between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Tour leader and plantswoman Josephine Shanks of Houston, Texas has been a Horticultural Judge for the Garden Club of America. For reservation information, contact the Leonard Haertter Travel Company at (800) 942-6666.

April 21st-23rd, 1995. The Thirteenth-Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society in Mobile, Alabama. (For more details, see article page 8.)

May 11th, 1995. Garden symposium benefitting Capital Area Preservations, Inc. in Raleigh, North Carolina. Featured guest, internationally renown English gardener and author Penelope Hobhouse, will speak "On Gardening" at the evening dinner-lecture. Self-guided tours of ten private gardens in the Raleigh area highlight the daylong event. Featured gardens include the Isabel Bowen Henderson Garden, owned by SGHS members Russ Stephenson and Ellen Longino. Contact Jenny Kulikowski, (919) 834-4844. Mordecai Historic Park, One Mimosa Street, Raleigh, NC 27604.

May 20th, 1995. Third-Annual Center for Historic Plants "Open House" at Tufton Farm, sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc. Informal tours of the Center's private nursery where the historic Rose and Dianthus collections will be in peak bloom. For information, write: Center for Historic Plants at Monticello, P. O. Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902-0316. (804) 984-9816.

June 1st-3rd, 1995. Annual conference of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, to be held in Santa Barbara, California. The meeting will focus on remnant landscapes of western settlement and the conversion of private gardens to public use. For AHLPP membership information write: 82 Wall St., Suite 1105, New York, NY 10005.

October 5th-7th, 1995. The tenth-biennial conference on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes," held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The conference theme will be "The Influence of Women on the Southern Landscape." Plans are underway for this conference and a preview will be included in the next issue of *Magnolia* ♣

Book Review

***An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape.* Carl R. Lounsbury, editor. Oxford University Press, New York, 1994.**

During the past decade and a half, many important events have occurred in the study of American cultural history, and some of the most significant have concerned the history of that portion of the United States described as "Southern." In the autumn of 1979, a conference was held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, entitled "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes." As that meeting was taking place, other historians were simultaneously advocating the formation of an association to examine buildings that, theretofore, had long been unappreciated by architectural scholars and educators. The Vernacular Architecture Forum evolved from this concern in the summer of 1980. Our own Southern Garden History Society was organized in 1983 and "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" has become a valuable biennial conference associated with the Society. In 1984, Mills Lane launched his multi-volume series, "Architecture of the Old South," with the publication of *South Carolina*. *North Carolina* followed in 1985 and volumes on other states have followed in their wake. *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* appeared in 1989, continuing this trend.

What one sees happening as a repercussion of this trend is threefold. The field of American architectural history is broadening to include the South; the field of Southern studies is embracing garden and landscape history; and architectural historians are expanding their purview beyond the immediate settings of historic buildings to the much larger landscape in which stands the objects of their study. Consequently, a glossary of early southern architecture, much needed for many years, is now achieved with *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape*.

The book, like this rising tide of interest and publications, results from several factors. One is the emergence of a generation of architectural and landscape historians and writers in related fields who have chosen this as their area of study. Mostly southern born, they are educated in the South and the southern landscape has been the source of their experience and inspiration. Regional projects and programs of the State Historic Preservation Offices have been invaluable in this regard. The very existence of this book is due, in no small measure, to these important transitions in architectural, cultural, and landscape history, as well as to a new generation of scholars in these fields. While this glossary's genesis lies in the cumulative work of Colonial Williamsburg's research team, that its ambition stretches



to embrace a South that exists beyond the cloister of Williamsburg is made possible through many contributors. This statement does not underestimate the critical role Carl Lounsbury, as editor, has played in bringing this important book to print. Rather, it acknowledges his role

and appreciates his efforts in garnering the knowledge of many, himself included, into one fold — this dictionary. In the past, this mutually supportive network of colleagues and professionals has enhanced the individual publishing efforts of many, however, no where else in the South, to date, has it so enriched a work that forms such a substantial first step toward a fuller understanding of the southern architecture and landscape of the Colonial and early National Periods.

The *Glossary* is a compendium of some fifteen-hundred words and terms used in a geographic region extending from Delaware to Georgia and west to Kentucky and Tennessee from around 1610 to the 1820s. Here, as elsewhere in recent years, the boundaries of the South have been relocated beyond the conventions of the later Mason-Dixon line. Most of the entries are annotated with citations, using the word or term from public records, travel accounts, letter-books, newspapers, and collections of private papers in libraries and public and private archives. For example, there are ten such citations following the definition of "garden," ranging in time from 1647 to 1806. They include an interesting advertisement in the *South Carolina Gazette* of 1739 for the sale of a plantation: "... on Ashley River, within three Miles of Charlestown . . . the Gardens are extensive, pleasant and profitable, and abound with all sorts of Fruit trees, and resemble old England the most of any in the Province."

The term "yard," likewise, had several meanings in the early South. The first entry includes a citation from William Fitzhugh and his *Chesapeake World* that notes landscape features of Green Spring, the plantation of Governor William Berkeley in James City County, Virginia. This 1686 citation noted that the orchard was "well fenced in with Locust fence, which is as durable as most brick walls, a Garden, a hundred feet square, well pailed in, a Yeard where in is most of the foresaid necessary houses [domestic outbuildings] pallizado'd in with locust Punchens, which is good as if it were walled in & more lasting than any of our bricks." As might be surmised, the word "pallizado'd" is a variant spelling of palisaded. Many definitions are further enlivened with photographs, line drawings, plans, or prints.

The book is intended for a broad audience of professionals and lay people in the fields of architectural history, garden and landscape history, historic preservation, and related disciplines. It will serve them well. Members of the Southern Garden History Society, gardeners and historians alike, will find the seventy-plus entries for garden, landscape, and associated terms of real value. Most of these words and expressions remain in use today and the definitions provided will both confirm and expand one's

understanding and use of the traditional language. The annotations for these words and terms, documenting their use in the Colonial and early National Periods, provide insight into the past and a quick reference to many places that once existed and now form a part of the lost southern landscape.

With *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape* in hand, we have access to the language of an earlier day in which buildings were erected, finished, embellished, repaired, and bought and sold. We are also confirmed in our knowledge of the landscape in which those buildings stood. Now this vocabulary, with its many nuances, is available to all. Consequently, studies in southern garden and landscape history have another sure foundation on which to build ♣

— by Davyd Foard Hood, book review editor, *Magnolia*.

Magnolia Welcomes Davyd Foard Hood

Beginning with this issue, *Magnolia* will feature the regular contributions of Davyd Foard Hood, who has generously consented to become Book Review Editor for the Bulletin. Davyd works as a private consultant in architectural and landscape history and maintains an office at Isinglass, his family home in Vale, North Carolina. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1975 with a masters in architectural history, and was associated with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and the State Historic Preservation Office until 1988. During that time he conducted an architectural survey of Rowan County and later supervised architectural surveys and National Register nomination projects throughout central and eastern North Carolina. His *The Architecture of Rowan County*, published in 1983, was followed by a series of smaller publications, beginning with *Third Creek Church* in 1985. *A History of the Catawba Soil and Water Conservation District* appeared in 1992, and Davyd was also a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. His most recent project has been in association with Laura Phillips of Winston-Salem. Together they produced a National Historic Landmark Designation Report for Pinehurst, North Carolina, focusing on the resort's role in the social and recreational history of the United States.

Davyd has been a long-standing and active member of the Southern Garden History Society. He frequently lectures on a variety of preservation topics and his scholarship and insight are well respected in the field. Davyd will be speaking at Old Salem's upcoming "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" conference, October 5th-7th, on the role of garden clubs in the publication of garden histories in the South ♣



A Farewell to Members Leaving the Board

Beginning May 1st, 1995, four members of the Southern Garden History Society's board of directors will depart from office as part of our new rotation system. They will be eligible for re-election to the board after a one-year hiatus. Mrs. T. Graydon (Judith) Flowers, Jr., a recently elected board member, has served on the publications committee and has been a faithful SGHS member for many years. The remaining three are founding members of the board: Mrs. Julian C. (Anne) Carr, Sr., Hugh G. Dargan, and Dr. Edgar G. Givhan, II.

As an Atlanta resident, Anne Carr has represented a region with the Society's largest membership. Her work with the Atlanta History Society and especially with the Chrokee Garden Library has been invaluable to SGHS. She was instrumental in housing the Society's archives at the Library and has worked tirelessly to maintain that collection ever since. Deep South representative Ed Givhan served as SGHS president from 1988-1990 and was host to the 1986 annual meeting in Montgomery, Alabama. He and his wife, Peggy, have also been hosts to board meetings and gatherings in Mobile throughout the years. Ed was responsible for early publications of *Magnolia* and his office maintained the membership listing for many years. He is currently coordinating our upcoming annual meeting that promises to be another outstanding event. Landscape architect Hugh Dargan, well known in the field of preservation and restoration in the South, will be remembered best as host of SGHS's tenth-annual meeting. He and his wife Mary Palmer (who he met at the second-annual meeting in Natchez) organized this extravaganza that drew our largest gathering of members to Historic Charleston. Mary Palmer notes that Hugh was also instrumental in attracting to the Society our current president, Ben Page, through an initial gift membership shortly after SGHS was formed.

We are deeply indebted to all members of our board for their dedicated hard work over the years. We hope they continue in making significant contributions to SGHS as well as to the broader realm of southern garden history ♣

Of Interest

The Smithsonian Institution announces the opening of an important research station for the Archives of American Gardens. This computerized retrieval system allows researchers to search photographic images that are included in the Archives by subject, names, dates, and geographic locations. The Archives of American Gardens is a collection of over 60,000 photographic images including 35mm slides, glass lantern slides, glass negatives, stereographs, and black and white photographs that document historic and contemporary American gardens. The nucleus of the Archives is a collection, donated by the Garden Club of America, of nearly 3000 hand-colored glass lantern slides from the 1920s and about 30,000 35mm slides of gardens from colonial times to the present. For more information, contact Nancy Bechtol, Horticultural Services Division, Smithsonian Institution, Arts and Industries Building, Room 2282, Washington, DC. (202) 357-1926; FAX (202) 786-2026 ♦



About the Author of "Charleston Gardens: A Turn of the Century View"

The lead story in the fall, 1994 issue of *Magnolia* (Vol. XI, No. 1) generated much response from our readers. The author, Virginia Lopez Begg, is a landscape historian who writes about American women in horticulture and landscape design. She recently contributed to *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, published by the National Park Service. She also wrote and photographed an exhibit about women garden writers for the "History of American Women" at Radcliff's Schlesinger Library. Both projects featured Frances Duncan, the focus of Mrs. Begg's *Magnolia* piece. She would enjoy hearing from anyone with an interest in, or information about Frances Duncan's work, especially in Charleston, South Carolina. Mrs. Begg can be reached at: 12 La Mancha Way, Andover, Massachusetts 01810 ♦

Deadline for submission of articles for the Spring Issue of Magnolia is February 15th, 1995.

Ben G. Page, Jr., *President*
Dr. William C. Welch, *Vice-President*
Flora Ann Bynum, *Secretary-Treasurer*
William Lanier Hunt, *Honorary President*

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