



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

# Magnolia

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## Seeds with Stories: Old Salem Gathers Family Heirlooms

By Martha B. Hartley, Winston-Salem, NC

Family heirlooms bring to mind cherished things such as grandmother's silver, an ancestor's portrait, a beloved needlepoint piece, or a fine walnut corner cupboard. But also, family heirlooms may include seed that has been planted, saved, and passed down over the course of many generations. Such heirlooms are precious carriers of history, memory, tradition, and relationship, each with a unique story. Unfortunately, those family treasures become rarer as the traditional practice of seed saving is affected by the modern world.

For thousands of years, people have been saving and sharing seed and a vast biodiversity has been created, but lifestyle changes have diminished this ancient practice. Industrial agriculture, population movement from rural areas into cities, and increasing challenges to seed sovereignty have contributed to the decline worldwide. As a result, not only are we losing agricultural diversity, but also a safe and healthy food supply is threatened. In America many historic fruit and vegetable varieties once available are now extinct.<sup>1</sup> Lost too is the connection to a personal past as well as the link to associated traditional knowledge, life-ways, superb taste, healing properties, or other irreplaceable attributes.

Seed saving and seed banking are responses to the threat, with approximately 1,400 seed banks throughout the world working to preserve genetic and cultural diversity.<sup>2</sup> The Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway is the most ambitious.<sup>3</sup> In the United States, Seed Savers Exchange is the largest non-governmental seed bank and as a member-supported non-profit organization, has led the effort in America since 1975.<sup>4</sup> Now more than ever, seed saving and sharing are vital for the future.

Old Salem Museums & Gardens is a contributing member of Seed Savers Exchange and has been cultivating

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Walter Craver and his sister Dorothy Craver presented Uncle Jim Shutt cucumber seed to Eric Jackson of Old Salem Horticulture March 2014.

Courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens

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# CALENDAR

**February 12, 2016.** “*New Gardens are Ever Appearing*”: *Loutrel Briggs and the Charleston Horticultural Tradition*, opening reception, Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library, College of Charleston. Featuring drawings, specimen sketches, and plans created by some of Charleston’s most talented botanists, gardeners, and landscape architects, this exhibit tells the story of taming and cultivating the rich semi-tropic flora of the Lowcountry over the past 250 years. RSVP to Amanda Noll, [nolla@cofc.edu](mailto:nolla@cofc.edu)

**April 12, 2016.** “Southern Uncovered: An Evening with the Lee Brothers,” Cherokee Garden Library, Atlanta History Center Lecture, 6:30 PM. Award-winning authors Matt Lee and Ted Lee will be your culinary ambassadors for the evening, sharing charming insights into the South’s most storied and buzzed-about food and food destinations. Special host is Angie Mosier, food stylist, cookbook photographer, pastry chef, and past president of the Southern Foodways Alliance. Reservations are required. Call (404) 814-4150; visit: [www.atlantahistorycenter.com](http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com)

**April 21-24, 2016.** “Sowing the Seeds of Horticulture in America,” the 34th SGHS Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Meeting headquarters at the Francis Marion Hotel. For hotel reservations, call (843)722-0600 or (877)756-2121 by Thursday, March 24, 2016. Mention Southern Garden History Society for the group rate. See preview by meeting organizer Susan Epstein in this issue. Visit: [www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org)

**April 24-26, 2016.** 70th annual Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium, in partnership with the Garden Club of Virginia, featuring Joe Lamp’l (host of *Growing a Greener World*); nationally recognized author and lecturer Kerry Mendez; and the trendsetting horticulturists Brie Arthur and Kelly Norris. Lectures will discuss planting for architectural interest, plants with style, perennials, foliage plants, and foodscaping. Visit: [www.colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com)

**April 25, 2016.** Historic Garden Week Event: “Garden Conversation with Andrea Wulf,” at Monticello, in Charlottesville, VA. *New York Times* best-selling author Andrea Wulf will speak on her latest book, *The*

*Invention of Nature*, which reveals the extraordinary life of German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), who corresponded with Jefferson for twenty-one years. Reception and garden tours precede the presentation. Visit: [www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

**May 6-8, 2016.** 21st annual Antique Rose Festival, Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg, VA features a popular sale of rare and heirloom roses and a Mother’s Day Rose Walk on Sunday, May 8. Visit: [www.gravegarden.org/events/](http://www.gravegarden.org/events/)

**June 1-4, 2016.** “Urbs in Horto – City in a Garden,” 38th annual meeting of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation (AHLHP), held in Chicago, IL. Meeting includes visits to Lincoln Park; Graceland Cemetery; Chicago’s west side parks, including Garfield and Columbus, designed by Jens Jensen; Riverside, the garden suburb designed by Olmsted and Vaux; and Pullman, the town that President Obama designated as a National Historic Monument. Visit: [www.ahlp.org](http://www.ahlp.org)

**June 6-10, 2016.** “Changing Perspectives: Planning for the Future,” American Public Gardens Association annual conference in Miami, FL. Visit: [www.publicgardens.org](http://www.publicgardens.org)

**June 19-24, 2016.** 20th annual Historic Landscape Institute, “Preserving Jefferson’s Gardens and Landscapes,” held in Charlottesville, VA. This one-week course uses Monticello and the University of Virginia as outdoor classrooms to study historic landscape preservation. Lectures, workshops, field trips and practical working experiences introduce students to the fields of landscape history, garden restoration, and historical horticulture. Call (434) 984-9816 or visit: [monticello.org/hli](http://monticello.org/hli)

**September 9-10, 2016.** Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello, Charlottesville, VA. Celebrate the legacy of revolutionary gardener Thomas Jefferson during the 10th annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello. Patrick O’Connell, chef and proprietor of The Inn at Little Washington, will be the keynote speaker. Visit: [www.heritageharvestfestival.com](http://www.heritageharvestfestival.com)



## Seeds with Stories.....(continued from page 1)

heirloom gardens since the establishment of the Horticulture Program in 1972 under the leadership of Flora Ann Bynum (Old Salem is the restored Moravian town of Salem, North Carolina, founded in 1766). Old Salem recently extended its commitment to sustainable practices, growing heirloom plants, and seed saving through a community initiative called "Seeds with Stories." This project is an outgrowth of the annual Slow Food Piedmont Seed Swap held in Old Salem. Eric Jackson of Old Salem's Horticulture staff leads this initiative, which seeks to identify, document, grow, and share local heirloom seeds of food and garden plants in the Northwest Piedmont region of North Carolina, with a special interest in heirloom seed associated with early Moravian families. The project creates value for the community by collecting and distributing seeds uniquely adapted to the local area, connecting the gardens of today with the gardens of yesterday, and enhancing biodiversity for the gardens of tomorrow.<sup>5</sup>

Stories and seeds come to the project in various ways. One story is about "Uncle Jim Shutt's" cucumber. Martha Hartley (author of this article) and husband Michael O. Hartley PhD, Director of Archaeology at Old Salem, encountered a Moravian family of seed savers in late 2013. The Hartleys had given a presentation on Moravian history and Old Salem's work to a seniors' group at a local Moravian church and following the lecture, a petite lady rushed across the room to say that her family had been saving cucumber seeds since the 1870s! She added that she worried about what would happen to the seed when she is gone.<sup>6</sup> The lady, Dorothy Craver (age 85), and her brother Walter Craver (age 91) are descendants of Moravian families with deep roots in the Winston-Salem area, going back at least to the 1760s. The seed's namesake, James Casper Shutt (1845-1911), was a great uncle of the Cravers. The origin of the seed is unknown but likely "Uncle Jim Shutt" inherited it as well.

Dorothy remarked that it was the only cucumber they planted growing up (and now), and that the seeds remain viable for a long time. Walter suggested soaking seeds overnight before planting to hasten germination. The seeds produce hearty plants with three to four-inch white and green fruits on different vines. The cucumbers are delicious fresh and also are used in favorite family recipes including Icicle Pickles (see recipe) and Grape Leaf Pickles. Dorothy remembered her mother, Cassie Craver, saving cucumber seed at the end of the summer from the fruit nearest the root. The seed cucumbers were "laid under a tree for a

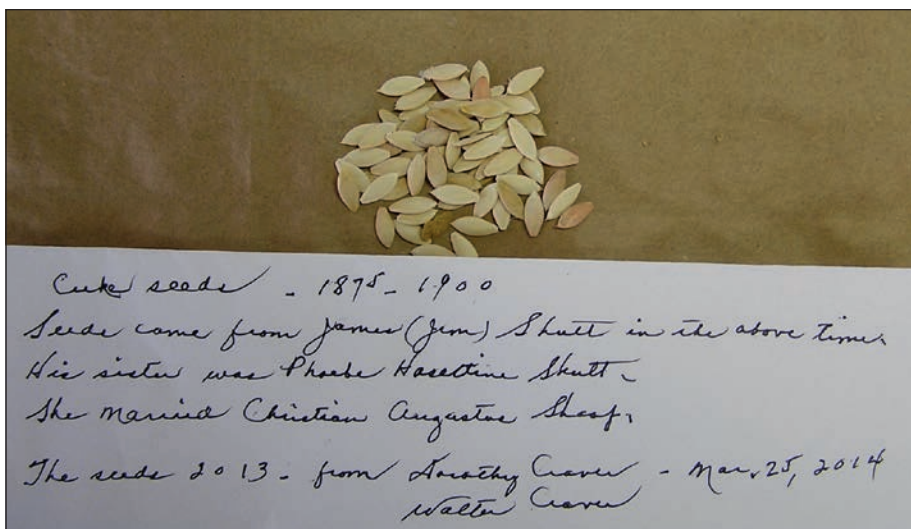
bit." Dorothy said that they didn't realize it was special to save seed, and they "thought everyone did."<sup>7</sup>

The Craver's story was recorded by Old Salem in March 2014 when they shared "Uncle Jim Shutt's" cucumber seed with the museum. Two months later, P. Allen Smith and crew visited Old Salem to film for his public television garden shows, and a filming segment included Allen planting "Uncle Jim Shutt's" cucumber seeds in the Single Brothers' Garden with Eric Jackson. By July, the lush vines were filled with fruit, and the Cravers—with their first cousin Johnnie Hauser (age 90)—stopped by Old Salem to visit. These Shutt descendants were impressed with the health and growth of the plants. The cucumbers were allowed to fully mature on the vine, the fruit was

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P. Allen Smith and his film crew with Allen planting Uncle Jim Shutt cucumber seed in Single Brothers Garden with Eric Jackson of Old Salem Horticulture May 2014.



Dorothy Craver's notation about her family's seed saving of Uncle Jim Shutt cucumber seed, with seed given to Old Salem March 2014.

Courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens

Courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens

## Seeds with Stories.....(continued from page 3)

harvested in late summer, and seed was saved and shared by Old Salem Horticulture. So the circle continues.

As it turns out, Johnnie Hauser's husband Jarvis Hauser is the grandson of James Monroe "Ploughboy" Jarvis (1857-1947), the local farmer who developed the famous 'Jarvis Golden Prolific' seed corn in the early twentieth century, which gained popularity across the South. But that's another story!

The stories and recipes connected to family heirloom seed inform local history in a profound way that is part of the broader global experience. Seeds carry memories of time, location, and people, and seed saving supports the ever-more-fragile cultural continuity of a place. Seed saving also promotes regional adaptability by nurturing heartiness through evolution in a particular environment. Local seed in your community, then, is likely to thrive, whereas seed purchased from



Eric Jackson of Old Salem Horticulture with a ripe Uncle Jim Shutt cucumber in Single Brothers Garden July 2014.

Courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens



Bee on Uncle Jim Shutt cucumber flower in the Single Brothers Garden July 2014.

Courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens

a far-away seed company may not. In addition, seed saving promotes genetic diversity among food crops and helps to ensure a dependable food supply when disease, pests, and environmental conditions are factors. Climate change gives heightened significance to these qualities.

Old Salem is grateful for the Cravers, Hausers, and other families who generously share their "Seeds with Stories." Are there heirloom seeds in your family? They, too, carry your history and may be considered irreplaceable living artifacts with meaning from the past and into the present.

For more information about Seed Saving and the work of Old Salem Gardens, please visit [www.oldsalem.org/gardens](http://www.oldsalem.org/gardens).

### Cassie Craver's Icicle or 14-day Pickles

2 gal. cucumbers, cut lengthwise  
1 pt. plain salt (non iodized)  
2 Tbsp. powdered alum  
2 qt. vinegar  
8 pt. sugar  
1 box pickling spice (8Tbsp.; put in cloth bag)

Dissolve salt in 1 gallon of boiling water; pour over cucumbers and leave 7 days. Stir every day. On seventh day, pour off water. Dissolve alum in 1 gallon of boiling water and pour over cucumbers; leave 24 hours. Next day, pour off alum water and add 1 gallon of clear boiling water. Leave 24 hours.

Next day, make syrup of last 3 ingredients. Bring to boil and pour over cucumbers; leave 24 hours. Next day, pour off vinegar syrup and bring to a boil again and pour over cucumbers. Do this every day for 4 days. On the fourth day, pack pickles in jars and seal. Use only enamel or a crock for letting cucumbers stand from day to day.

May use stainless steel to bring water to boil and to make vinegar syrup.

*Dorothy Craver*

Reprinted from *A Goodly Heritage* (1994), a cookbook compiled by Circle Seven of the Women's Fellowship of New Philadelphia Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC ([www.newphilly.org](http://www.newphilly.org)).

Cassie Shoaf Craver was a niece of Uncle Jim Shutt.



(Endnotes)

- 1 Charles Siebert, "Food Ark," *National Geographic* (July 2011): 115-116.
- 2 Cary Fowler, "The Global Crop Diversity Trust" (report, February 26, 2008), 4.
- 3 Svalbard Global Seed Vault, <https://www.croptrust.org/what-we-do/svalbard-global-seed-vault/>.
- 4 Diane Ott Whealy, *Gathering: Memoir of a Seed Saver* (Decorah, Iowa: Seed Savers Exchange, 2011).

- 5 Eric Jackson, "Seeds with Stories" (Description prepared for web content, Old Salem Museums & Gardens, December 2014).
- 6 Dorothy Craver to Martha Hartley, November 21, 2013.
- 7 Dorothy Craver and Walter Craver, interview by Martha Hartley, March 25, 2014.

Martha Hartley is Director of Research and Outreach, Division of Restoration, Old Salem Museum & Gardens.

## Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference – REVIEW

By Kenneth McFarland, Fredericksburg, VA

Convening at the Old Salem Museums & Gardens (OSMG) Visitor Center, the twentieth Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference (RSGL) was a "feast" for all the senses. Entitled "*Learning from the Past, Planting for the Future*," the program featured treats for the eyes via the hundreds of remarkable images, joined to excellent talks, which were all pleasant listening. Of course, such fare is typical for OSMG offerings. So is good food, but this conference brought aromatic tasty "finger-licking good" offerings that set a new standard.

Largely avoiding storms that brought major flooding to the Carolinas, the Conference opened with a welcome from the heads of the sponsoring organizations: Old Salem Museums & Gardens (Ragan Folan), Southern Garden History Society (Carleton Wood), and Reynolda House Museum of American Art (Allison Perkins).

"Planting for the Future" is clearly of central importance to opening speaker, Ira Wallace, of the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange Cooperative in Mineral, Virginia. Wallace's infectious enthusiasm was quickly conveyed to all as she told of explorations in the world of heirloom plants. If one asks why, the answers are numerous including flavor, appearance, disease resistance, regional adaptation...and the many people and stories accompanying such long-cherished plants. Tomatoes, of course, are particularly dear to those seeking yesteryear's flavors, and Wallace cited notable examples such Radiator Charlie's 'Mortgage Lifter.' She also mentioned the 'Carolina Black' peanut, a tasty legume perhaps unfamiliar to some in the audience. The ears of this greens loving author, however, found special delight in recent collards research, evidenced by several varieties collected across the region and now grown at a USDA site in South Carolina. For those who want to follow up on Wallace's overview there are thankfully new heirloom plant publications appearing regularly and various websites dedicated to the topic.

Next, Eric Jackson and Ellen McCullough did OSMG proud in a finely choreographed "tag-team" presentation

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"Salem from the North, ca. 1840" painting by Christian Daniel Welfare. Wachovia Historical Society.

Courtesy Old Salem Museums & Gardens



Boys School, View of the Corner of Academy and Main St., 1846-1849, by Henry Jacob Van Vleck.

Courtesy Old Salem Museums & Gardens



## Restoring Southern Gardens..... (continued from page 5)

on the “Heirloom Plants of Old Salem,” focusing on those grown for both their beauty and their utility during their 1766-1850 “window of interpretation.” As to be expected, they referenced the vastly influential early efforts of Flora Ann Bynum. Like her, they continue to rely on the wealth of documentation provided by their Moravian predecessors, naming such individuals as Christian Reuter who inventoried Salem-area plants and wildlife in the mid-eighteenth century, along with Rev. Samuel Kramsch and his ca. 1790 listings of local plants. The speakers went on to detail their actual work with heirlooms, to include flowers, vegetables, and cereal grains. Among the latter is an old variety of wheat, Purple Straw, initially acquired from a Massachusetts source and known to date to the early colonial period. Along with the importance of such plants to their efforts, the speakers stressed the need for good basic gardening techniques and the key role of compost. As regards to pest management, OSMG’s key weapons are the natural disease resistance of heirloom varieties and working hard to maintain healthy plants.

Sadly illness kept internationally recognized apple authority, C. Lee Calhoun, Jr. from speaking on “Southern Heirloom Apples.” OSMG’s John Larson and Robbie King stepped in, however, lauding Calhoun’s dedication and the importance of his book *Southern Apples* to the work of OSMG landscape staff. King noted the importance of apples to our forebears, cider being of special importance. Amazingly, he said, where once eighteen hundred varieties were available, only five hundred exist today. Their comments were followed with the planting of an two heirloom apple trees by conference attendees, led by Margaret Norfleet Neff and Salem Neff of Beta Verde, LLC, and the Southern Heirloom

Apple Tree Planting Project.

Devoted to honoring Flora Ann Bynum, Thursday evening activities featured a reception at the Visitor Center, dinner coordinated by Lee Bynum Schwall, “Music for



Stephanie Tyson (seated, L) signing her book *Soul Food Odyssey*, with (L-R) Cheryl Harry, Vivian Joyner, and conference blogger Nancie McDermott.



Flora Ann Bynum's three daughters: Lark, Lee, and Lori. Photo by Martha Hartley.

Old Salem Museum & Gardens

Old Salem Museum & Gardens



the Garden” performed on the 1800 Tannenberg Organ, and the unforgettable Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture given by Peggy Cornett. (See the insert panel for a summary of the remarkable remembrance.)

Museums around the nation envy Old Salem’s collection of images. Director of Collections, Johanna Brown, again demonstrated this point in her Saturday morning talk, “From Congregation Town to Cradle of Industry: A Century of North Carolina Moravian Landscapes, 1790-1890.” Brown first revealed a growing eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century village, with industrial activities such as grist milling and artisanal output being of less importance than agriculture. The second half of the 1800s, however, saw radical change, as railroad construction and the availability of “hands” transformed parts of

Salem into a buzzing hive of factory production. A stay at the Brookstown Inn (former Salem Cotton Manufacturing Company and Arista Cotton Mill) made the topic all the more poignant, as it enabled Old Salem conferees to feel engaged with both the Moravian village *and* industrial components of this topic.

Great compliments also go to Martha Hartley, Director of Research and Outreach for the OSMG Restoration Division, for introducing us to James Monroe Jarvis (1857-1947) through a series of photographs remarkable by any standard. Hartley discussed how, after curing a youthful urge to wander, Jarvis returned to his native North Carolina, where he operated Evergreen Farm near Winston-Salem, wrote a newspaper column, took pictures,

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Photo by M. Hartley. OSMG

Ira Wallace greets SGHS board member Randy Harelson at her book signing.



Photo by Eric Jackson. OSMG

Purple Straw Wheat, one of the remaining colonial era wheat varieties, growing in the Volz Lot in Old Salem.



Photo by M. Hartley. OSMG

Johnnie Hauser and Peggy Cornett with J.M. Jarvis Planet Jr. wheel hoe, ca 1896. Johnnie's husband is a grandson of Jarvis.



Photo by M. Hartley. OSMG

Winston-Salem City Council Member Denise Adams and Culinary Historian Michael W. Twitty at the Friday evening covered dish supper.



## Restoring Southern Gardens..... (continued from page 7)

and raised a fine hard-working family. His early 1900s visual and written legacy is a researcher's dream, portraying a life shared by many ordinary Southerners. All could agree in wanting to go back and "talk taters" with this wonderful man and his equally remarkable family. Fortunately, his descendants continue to own the Jarvis property, and they have been wonderfully supportive of OSMG.

Highly respected landscape historian Judith Tankard closed the Friday morning sessions with "Designing Paradise: Women Landscape Architects." As subjects she chose two people famed among American garden history students, Beatrix Farrand and Ellen Biddle Shipman. To these she added the less famous, yet highly talented, Bostonian, Rose Standish Nichols. Each woman was uniquely talented, Tankard demonstrated, yet all circulated in a world where they drew inspiration from such notables as Charles Sprague Sargent, Charles Platt, and Nichols' own uncle, Augustus Saint-Gaudens. (Nichols' brother-in-law, moreover, was Arthur Shurcliff.) For a conference on Southern landscapes, the horticulturally gifted Shipman's work in

Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana was of special interest. Farrand stands out, of course, for her masterful creation at Dumbarton Oaks, while Nichols' "love of flowers" guiding philosophy was seen at Morningside in Augusta, Georgia.

The Friday afternoon session, "The African American Landscape & Garden," was held at St. Philips African Moravian Church, part of Old Salem's St. Philips African-American Complex. Organized in 1822 among a mostly enslaved population, it is one of the oldest Black congregations in the nation and the only historic African American Moravian congregation. Culinary historian and historical interpreter Michael W. Twitty opened with a provocative talk on reconstructing gardens of the enslaved, 1760 to 1860. Twitty has spent years interviewing Southern elders and studying archives and historic sites to garner a multifaceted understanding of African American foodways and gardens. His lecture focused on gardening and food's critical role in developing and defining African American civilization, as well as the politics and cultural ownership



Old Salem Museum & Gardens

Conference attendees joined in the planting of two heirloom apple trees with the Southern Heirloom Apple Tree Planting Project.  
Photo by Martha Hartley



surrounding food. All plants, he said, have spiritual and cultural meanings. He explained that a vital part of exploring Southern food heritage is honoring cooks from the colonial to antebellum eras and enslaved people for their significant role in creating a Southern cuisine. Twitty connected past to present, highlighting the necessity of providing ways for contemporary communities and people of color better opportunities in the current economy, avenues out of health crises, and methods to reduce the food deserts that afflict many communities in the United States. To learn more, you can join Twitty's food blog, Afroculinaria (Twitter: @Koshersoul).

Twitty also gave the second session as Matthew Raiford, CheFarmer of Gilliard Farms was absent due to an emergency. Located in Brunswick, Georgia, Gilliard Farms is a family-run, organic farm established in 1874 by their ancestor Jupiter Gilliard in a freedman's community. For almost a decade, Raiford and his sister, Althea Raiford, have farmed chemical free like their ancestors. Their work is part of building a stronger community and a deep appreciation for their family's legacy and future. Twitty states that Gilliard Farms exemplifies culinary justice at its best. It is a member of Georgia Organics, Coastal Organic Growers, and Georgia Grown. To learn more, visit [www.gilliardfarms.com](http://www.gilliardfarms.com)

So much talk about good things to grow and eat helped all to develop hearty appetites and no one was left hungry after the evenings cover dish super. Unfortunately the weather forced a venue change from St. Phillip's Church to the Gray auditorium, but all stayed dry and there was no shortage of elbow room. And elbows were a-flying as conferees dug into their fried chicken, greens, and much more of Southern-style fare.

Final presentations began Saturday morning with landscape architect Suzanne Turner's discussion of Cheekwood in Nashville and Houston's Neal (now Havens) estate. Turner linked both to a booming New South economy hallmarked by an expanding rail network, which aided national and international trade opportunities. The facilitating commodity here was Nashville-born Maxwell House coffee, the profit makers being Leslie Cheek and J. W. Neal, and the landscape architects Bryant Fleming and the Olmsted Brothers. Conferees examined Cheekwood (for which Turner prepared a cultural landscape report) via a series of early grounds photographs along with modern-day views. Now serving as a botanical garden and museum of art, the estate provides a challenge for those who would also want to retain the flavor of the Fleming concept. Turner spoke on how the former Neal home in Houston benefited from a period of benign neglect while avoiding demolition. Her work there now is aided by an abundance of surviving Olmsted documents and owners (while having their own ideas) desirous of bring the estate back to its former status of possessing the area's premier

garden in the area.

Lynchburg, Virginia's Jane Baber White next examined "Lessons Learned" in the restoration of the garden of Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer, a site visited by many notables during Spencer's life and Society members during our 2013 meeting. Both that visit and our speaker demonstrated that great gardens do not of necessity relate to wealth, nor do they always require an Olmsted or a Fleming. They do often benefit, however, from thoughtful restoration, and such work began at the Spencer garden in 1983 by the Hillside Garden Club. White detailed how Spencer's son had contacted her for her help as a garden designer. Then, White noted, she did not know of Anne Spencer, but she visited the property and "fell in love." The following story is one intense study of what remained on the ground, along with close scrutiny of surviving written documents and images. White also benefited from advice by garden authorities, such as Peggy Cornett and Peter Hatch, along with University of Virginia professors of landscape architecture Reuben Rainey and Mary Hughes, and Garden Club of Virginia landscape architect Will Riley. The garden remains a work in progress but surely one in which Anne Spencer could still take great pride.

Closing the Saturday session was Beate Ankjaer-Jensen of the Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont in Falmouth, Virginia. While the Belmont home and landscape is fully rooted in Falmouth's nineteenth-century milling economy, Ankjaer-Jensen mainly examined the 1916-1955 ownership period of artist and Detroit native Gari Melchers (1860-1932) and his Savannah-connected wife Corinne (1880-1932). She described how the couple left their home in wartime Europe, after which various twists in fate found them acquiring Belmont, set above the falls of the Rappahannock River. While Melchers continued to paint, the couple established their "country place" with the various accoutrements of a small farm. Both their formal garden and changes to the house, moreover, fully reflected the Colonial Revival style. Ankjaer-Jensen reviewed highlights of her sixteen-year work in researching the Melchers' impact and her efforts, aided by the Garden Club of Virginia, to apply that research to the buildings and grounds of the twenty-nine acre estate.

Though this had closed the OSMG portion of the program there remained further treats ahead. Re-gathering at Reynolda House Museum of American Art many conferees took in "The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement 1887-1920." Included were two remarkable works by Gari Melchers. As well, open for visiting was the Ellen Biddle Shipman garden at the Ralph and Dewitt Chatham Hanes' Estate, now home to the president of Wake Forest University. Fittingly, it was also the spot where keynote speaker, Peggy Cornett, had gotten some of her early professional experience. ...an appropriate ending to an excellent event.



# *The Lady who lived up to her Name:* Flora Ann Bynum and the Conference for the American South

By Peggy Cornett, Monticello

If there can be one person who embodies the progress and momentum of Southern garden and landscape preservation today, that person would be Flora Ann Lee Bynum. Her interest in historic site preservation began when she and her husband Zachary T. Bynum purchased an 1844 house in a once blighted neighborhood of Winston-Salem, which would eventually become a restored Moravian Village: Old Salem. By the early 1970s, Flora Ann recognized that the historic district, with meticulously restored buildings set in expansive lawns, was incomplete without equal attention to the historic landscape. According to Gene Capps, Flora Ann's friend and former Vice-President of Old Salem Museum & Gardens, Flora Ann envisioned "acres of gardens and orchards, field crops and fences, arbors and even costumed gardeners [cultivating] ... heirloom varieties of vegetables, flowers, shrubs, vines and trees. The landscape, in her mind, could be a multi-dimensional resource that would be used to teach about life in early Salem and early America while providing a more accurate setting for interpreting the historic buildings." Flora Ann was ready to take on the extensive research and leadership this endeavor required as a volunteer. She set up an office in her home and studied horticulture, history, plant nomenclature, and even traveled to Herrnhut, Austria, to continue her study of the Moravians and their gardens. She chaired the Old Salem Landscape Restoration Committee and, under her guidance, Old Salem became one of the premier garden restorations in America.

Flora Ann's gracious Southern style belied her fierce determination to unite individuals in the realm of landscape history and garden restoration, be they scholars, professionals, educators, or amateur gardeners. She sought advice from a wide diversity of experts, from Rudy Favretti, University of Connecticut professor and Landscape Architect of the Garden Club of Virginia,

to garden writer, journalist, and "Dean of Southern Horticulture" William Lanier Hunt from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She was instrumental in hiring Old Salem's first horticulturist, Peter Hatch, who would go on to become the Director of Gardens and Grounds

at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Subsequently Flora Ann mentored and encouraged countless others with a passion for gardening, landscape restoration, and historic plants, including myself.

Organized and detail-oriented, Flora Ann was at her best working with colleagues and organizing committees to undertake new projects and programs. This was the case in 1979 with the first Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference, which Old Salem developed in collaboration with Reynolda House and Gardens, Stagville Preservation Center, and professional advisors. The conference became the seed for the evolution of the Southern Garden History Society, founded

in 1982, which Flora Ann nurtured with particular pride and ambition. As the organization's secretary-treasurer for the next twenty years, Flora Ann tirelessly worked to maintain a consistency of mission linking the Southern Garden History Society with the Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference, which Old Salem continues to host. Since her death in 2006 the conference has maintained the high standards Flora Ann imposed. Its edifying, often complex themes have encouraged rigorous scholarship and expanded our understanding of the diverse and multifaceted Southern landscape.

To the end Flora Ann remained the consummate Southern lady: genteel, down-to-earth, and self-effacing. She modestly spoke of herself as an "amateur" with "no background, other than belonging to a garden club," and her laughter was infectious and disarming. And yet, her many accomplishments will forever set her apart as a force of nature, whose determination and spirit inspired a movement toward preserving the historic landscape of the American South.



Flora Ann with Snapper Honey, Labor Day 2005.



# Southern Garden History Society Launches New Website

By Virginia Hart, Winston-Salem, NC

The Southern Garden History Society ushered in 2016 with a redesigned website, the first makeover since 2007. It features a home page dominated by a bold, full-width slide show highlighting the beauty of several institutional members' gardens. The home page also has quick links to our most visited pages: Calendar, Join Us, and *Magnolia*.

One goal was to feature many images to help visitors appreciate the beauty of Southern gardens and landscapes. Every page includes a color photograph, and every photograph can be enlarged with one mouse click. Another aim was to make the website user-friendly via a variety of devices and web browsers. So, whether you are using a PC, Mac, iPhone, Android phone, or tablet, the website is visually appealing and easily navigated.

Like the Home page, the Annual Meeting page offers a slide show, in this case highlighting places that will be a part of the 2016 Charleston Annual Meeting, April 22-24. There is also a photo gallery of Charleston sites with more than twenty stunning images.

The *Magnolia* page incorporates thumbnail images of the four most recent issues, as well as links to every issue published, including *Hoe and Tell*, the precursor to *Magnolia*, which appeared in 1983. The sidebar on every page also has a thumbnail linked to the most recent *Magnolia* for easy access. Included too is a customized search box

that allows visitors to look over back issues of *Magnolia*, as well as *Southern Plant Lists* and other PDFs, for specific terms.

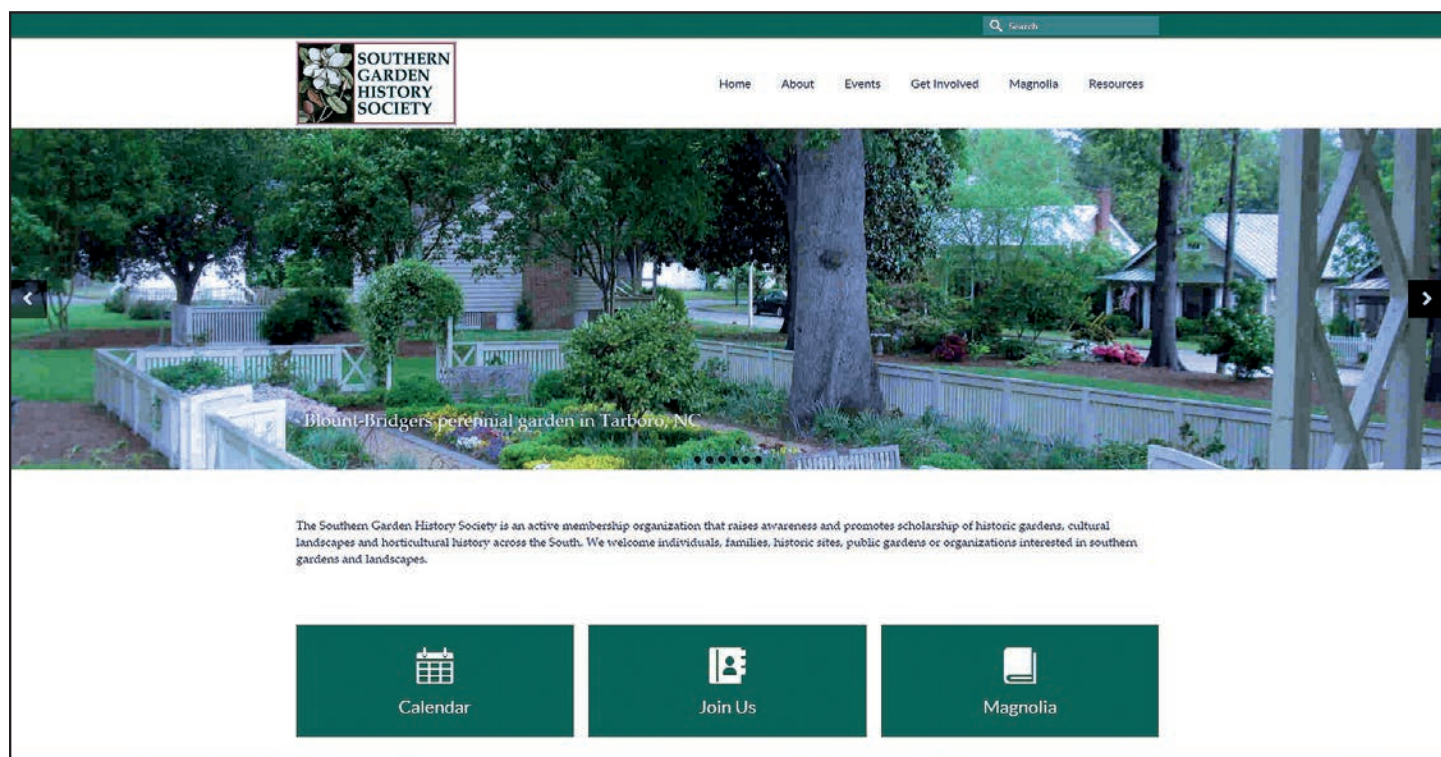
The site is easily navigated via the menu at the top of every page, which dynamically displays additional page names within the site. Also offered is a page dedicated to Member Institutions. Organized by state, this list encourages web visitors to visit and support these loyal Society members.

Several visitors have already discovered another new feature: the Contact page, which includes a form for communicating with the Membership Office directly. This is helpful for members and non-members alike to get more information about the Society without the worry of using a particular email address.

The Book Reviews page has been reconfigured to include publications that were either reviewed or mentioned in the "In Print" section of *Magnolia* within the past three years. Each title links directly to the *Magnolia* issue where the review appears.

The Calendar page received a makeover as well, and now photos can be joined with calendar listings. As before, the Membership page includes the option to join or renew online, as well as instructions for joining via U.S. Mail.

*The website's redesign was made possible thanks to the hard work of SGHS board member Perry Mathewes and membership coordinator Virginia Hart.*





# *Sowing the Seeds of Horticulture in America*

## The Thirty-fourth Annual SGHS Meeting in Charleston, SC

By Susan Epstein, Charleston, SC

James R. Cothran observed in *The Gardens of Historic Charleston* (1995) that “No place in America is endowed with a horticultural heritage as rich and diverse as Charleston and the Lowcountry.” Settled in 1670, Charleston represents a gardening mecca regarding current trends, as well as historic gardens and their documentation. With its temperate climate, unique and well-preserved architecture, and exquisite gardens, it is at the pinnacle of cultural and historical destinations. Society members will come behind the scenes and see some of the area’s finest gardening, while learning of Charleston’s horticultural heritage and preservation achievements. They will see why Charleston was named a “Top Destination in the World” by *Conde Nast Traveler* for several years and most recently named “America’s Favorite Small City.”

Home base will be the historic Frances Marion Hotel, set across from Marion Square Park, which was renovated last year in cutting-edge planting schemes and new plants. It should be bursting with color in April. History abounds, so what could be better!

Featured speaker will be landscape architect and garden historian Suzanne Turner of Suzanne Turner Associates in Baton Rouge. She will examine early agricultural and horticultural developments that helped define Charleston and the surrounding Lowcountry, focusing on Charleston as the hotbed of gardening and horticultural exploration in early America.

University of South Carolina professor David Shields, author of *Southern Provisions* (March 2015), will talk about Charleston’s City Market and how in the 1830s the Horticultural Society of South Carolina drove vegetable improvement. He will also speak about Paul S. and Joseph J. Noisette, the African American grandsons of the creator of the Noisette class of roses. They were the most advanced truck farmers in the South, maintaining their grandfather’s floricultural heritage, along with breeding strawberries and tomatoes.

Dr. Nic Butler, Historian with the Charleston County Public Library, will enlighten us on the *Forgotten Gardens of Early Charleston*. These were the earliest form of privately owned, public botanical and strolling gardens in



Mulberry Castle parterre garden.

America, which sadly have disappeared.

A field trip to Mulberry Castle, possibly the area’s finest eighteenth-century plantation seat, will be a highlight. Built in 1714 by Colonel Thomas Broughton on a bluff overlooking the Cooper River, Mulberry Castle got its name from being a fortification during a bloody battle of the Yemasee War in 1715. The original crop being silk, later abandoned for indigo, and subsequently replaced by rice, plantation lands brought great wealth to the Broughton family. Mulberry Castle was owned by Broughton/Barker/Milliken family descendants until 1915, when it was sold to Clarence Chapman of New York. Loutrel Briggs designed most of the current landscape in the 1920s. On seeing the Mulberry gardens created by Briggs, E.T.H. Schaffer in *Carolina Gardens* (1963) wrote, “For romantic story, beauty of location, symphony and perfection in execution, I have found no finer garden anywhere than at Mulberry-on-Cooper.” In jeopardy of being subdivided and turned into a golf course, the property was purchased in 1987 by Historic Charleston Foundation, later being sold to Gail and Parker Gilbert with preservation and conservation easements. Under their careful watch it was restored to its former grandeur and the garden expanded by well-known Lowcountry landscape architect, Sheila Wertimer. It was also reunited with South Mulberry, which will be visited as well. Parts of the original 1835 garden at South Mulberry remain within the rebuilt walled enclosure.

City gardens to be seen including Briggs’ first

**NOTICE:** At the Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC the membership will vote on updating the Society bylaws.

The updated bylaws will be available for all members to view at the Society website on March 1st.

If you have questions contact Carleton Wood at [cwood@hillsanddales.org](mailto:cwood@hillsanddales.org) or (706) 882-3242.

commission at the William Gibbes House. This was laid out in 1926 for Mrs. Washington Roebling, widow of the designer of the Brooklyn Bridge and sensitively crafted around an existing eighteenth-century parterre garden. Also on the agenda is “Mrs. Whaley’s Charleston Garden,” lovingly maintained by her daughter Marty Whaley Adams Cornwell. Likely the most visited and admired private garden in America, it was designed in 1940 by Briggs, with great subsequent input by owner, Emily Whaley. In the 1990s she wrote *Mrs. Whaley and Her Charleston Garden*, a must-have for any lover of Charleston gardens. Another garden on our list is that of Ben and Cindy Lenhardt. Ben is chairman of the Garden Conservancy and the two have reproduced a beautiful eighteenth-century-style garden to match their 1743 house. It boasts of an intricate parterre garden, as well as a typical walled Charleston garden, full of plants available in the United States by the 1800s. This is just a sampling of a few of the gardens we will visit on our walking tour Saturday morning.

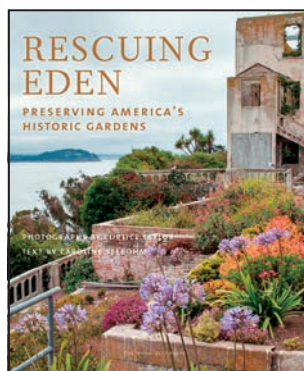
Sunday’s optional tour will feature the ACE Basin, south of Charleston. Named for the Combahee, Ashepoo, and Edisto Rivers, this is one of the East Coast’s largest undeveloped estuaries and associated wetlands. The 350,000-acre focus area encompasses diverse ecosystems, plus a wealth of wildlife, and operates through a consortium of government agencies, conservation groups, and private landowners. One of the nation’s largest privately held conservation areas, it has won numerous

preservation and conservation awards. Here too in 1863 Harriet Tubman escorted hundreds of enslaved men, women, and children to freedom via the Underground Railroad. Citadel biology professor Dr. Richard Porcher will discuss native flora as well as interpret the area’s once flourishing rice culture. White Hall Plantation will reveal the old mixed with the new. One of the numerous plantations owned by Nathaniel Heyward in the eighteenth century, it is said that aided by slaves he laid out the oak grove next to the house. Today, it includes the largest documented live oak in Colleton County. Behind the house is a “suntrap” garden, one of Robert Marvin’s signature designs, built with bricks from Nemours Plantation. Across a former rice field and tucked into a pine forest, is a new two-acre “secret garden” designed by Howard Beach, with collaboration with Barbara Israel. At Rose Hill, another Nathaniel Heyward plantation, will be seen the remnants of an old rice mill located on a tidal creek adjacent to the Combahee River. Cockfield, also a Heyward holding, was originally located on Cuckolds Creek, a branch of the Combahee. The barns, houses, and other buildings were destroyed in the nineteenth century, leaving only the rice mill. Originally tide powered, it was converted to steam in the 1880s and later moved to its present location. The current owner has restored it to today’s wonderful condition, the building serving as a comfortable retreat. The fields are once again being planted to encourage the return of the bobwhite quail in addition to other game birds and waterfowl.

## In Print

***Rescuing Eden: Preserving America’s Historic Gardens***, by Caroline Seeböhm (author), Curtice Taylor (photographer) | The Monacelli Press | 224 pages; hardcover | ISBN-10: 1580934084; ISBN-13: 978-1580934084 | 2015, List Price \$50

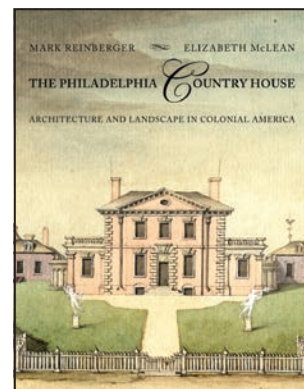
From simple eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century gardens to the lavish estates of the Gilded Age, the gardens started by 1930s inmates at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay to the centuries-old camellias at Middleton Place near Charleston, South Carolina—*Rescuing Eden* celebrates the history of garden design in the United States, with twenty-eight examples that have been saved by ardent preservationists and generous private owners, and opened to the public. The book features several Southern gardens, including Barnsley Gardens near Adairsville, Georgia; Maryland’s Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton and the William Paca Garden in Annapolis;



and the garden created by Harlem Renaissance poet and civil rights activist Anne Spencer in Lynchburg, Virginia.

***The Philadelphia Country House: Architecture and Landscape in Colonial America***, by Mark Reinberger and Elizabeth McLean | John Hopkins University Press | 465 pages; hardcover | ISBN-10: 1421411636 ISBN-13: 978-1421411637 | 2015, List Price \$69.95

In this illuminating and handsomely illustrated volume, Mark Reinberger, a senior architectural historian, and Elizabeth McLean, an accomplished scholar of landscape history, examine the country houses that the urban gentry built on the outskirts of Philadelphia in response to both local and international economic forces, social imperatives, and fashion. *A review of this book will appear in the upcoming issue of Magnolia.*



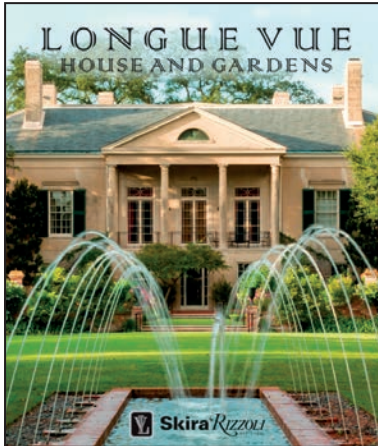


# Book Review

***Longue Vue House and Gardens: The Architecture, Interiors, and Gardens of New Orleans' Most Celebrated Estate***, by Charles Davey and Carol McMichael Reese, Photographed by Tina Freeman | hardcover, 224 pages | Skira Rizzoli Publisher, 2015 | ISBN-13: 978-0-8478-4651-1, List Price \$65

Longue Vue, the New Orleans estate of Edgar Bloom (1886-1959) and Edith Rosenwald (1895-1980) Stern, achieved a nearly-immediate, legendary status in their lifetime. This recognition came as a result of their individual achievements, their philanthropy, and the commissions they gave to its designers, architects Moise Herbert Goldstein, Richard Koch, and William Platt, and to Ellen Biddle Shipman, renowned landscape architect and plantswoman. Their efforts and skill, whether practiced individually or in collaborations, produced an extraordinary estate—classical, lush, and elegant in appearance—and home to the Sterns from the early 1920s to Edith Stern's death on 11 September 1980. She first opened the gardens to the public in 1968. In 1980 the entire estate, the house, gardens, and grounds, was opened as a privately-endowed house museum, and it has drawn appreciative visitors of all ranks to the present.

*Longue Vue, House and Gardens*, celebrates both the lives and good works of the Sterns and the evolution of their estate, a unique synthesis of an urban Palladian villa and an American country place, occupying landscaped grounds of some eight acres. Walter C. Stern and Carol McMichael Reese provide short biographical accounts of the Sterns, their families, and their generous philanthropy in two essays. The couple's support of the Flint-Goodridge Hospital, Dillard University, and Pontchartrain Park residential subdivision followed on Julius Rosenwald's unprecedented and unequalled support for black education in the South through the Rosenwald Foundation, established in 1917 to provide funds for black school construction. Mr. Rosenwald (1862-1932), Edith's father, acquired a one-fourth interest in Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1895, and in 1908 he became president of the national mail-order company. The Sterns were among the leading Jewish families in New Orleans



where Edgar Stern was born in 1886.

A short introductory essay by Charles Davey provides an overview of the development of Longue Vue. He quickly traces its evolution from the purchase in 1922 of the core acreage, an elevated site bordered on three sides by the New Orleans Country Club golf course and two canals, the construction of a large, handsome Colonial Revival-style house designed by Moise Herbert Goldstein, a New Orleans architect, and the creation of the first garden on the south side of the house, focused on a *tempietto* designed later in the 1920s by Richard Koch, another Louisiana-based architect. The grounds were expanded by the purchase of additional lots in 1929 and 1931, (again in 1938, 1939, and 1958, and last in 1998).

This first, Colonial Revival-style incarnation of Longue Vue would survive for some dozen years, until 1934-1936, when a series of decisions set in motion the creation of the estate Edgar and Edith Stern enjoyed in the last decades of their lives and visitors see today. In 1934 the Garden Study Club of New Orleans, of which Edith Stern was a founding member, invited Ellen Biddle Shipman (1869-1950) to speak in New Orleans and to design a small garden in Audubon Park. In the autumn of 1934 Mrs. Charles S. Williams, another founding member of the Garden Study Club and a friend of Edith Stern, commissioned Ellen Biddle Shipman to design a garden for her State Street house in New Orleans. Within months Edith Stern engaged Mrs. Shipman for work at Longue Vue, a commission that continued through her last visit with the Sterns at Longue Vue in May 1949, at the age of seventy-nine. Following her work in Longue Vue's existing landscape, Mrs. Shipman produced a general design plan for the estate in January 1936 and went on to serve as a landscape architect, architectural advisor, and interior decorator for the Sterns. In 1937, following a fourteen-month sojourn in Europe, the Sterns decided to build a new house at Longue Vue, one that would match "the increasingly magnificent gardens Shipman had designed." They turned first to David Adler, a well-known, talented Chicago architect, but rejected his proposed design in 1938.

On Ellen Biddle Shipman's advice they commissioned the new house from William and Geoffrey Platt, the sons of Charles A. Platt (1861-1933), who had been Mrs. Shipman's mentor, partner, and collaborator on country house estates. Edgar and Edith Stern and their children moved into the new house at Longue Vue on 16 December 1942. The close friendship and collaboration that developed between the Sterns, Ellen Biddle Shipman, and William Platt, introduced in the first pages of this monograph, are addressed by Thaïsa Way in its final chapter. Between these

essays are a wealth of plans, diagrams, perspective views, documentary photographs, and a splendid group of new photographs of Longue Vue's house, gardens, and interiors by Tina Freeman, that record the creation of an extraordinary estate.

Readers like myself, who assumed that the name of the estate owed to the French heritage of New Orleans, will

be surprised to learn instead that it came from the Longue Vue Inn in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, where Edgar Stern proposed marriage to Edith Rosenwald Sulzberger over tea on 23 April 1921.

Davyd Foard Hood  
Book Review Editor

## Restoration of Beatrix Farrand Landscape at Green Springs Garden

*By Anne Baldwin, Garden Club of Alexandria, VA*

Just outside the City of Alexandria in Fairfax County, one of the last projects of Beatrix Farrand's celebrated career can be found. Owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority since 1970, Green Springs Garden features a 1784 historic house that was redesigned in 1942 by Colonial Revival architect Walter Macomber with a garden that was redesigned in the same year by famed landscape designer, Beatrix Farrand.

Farrand was the only woman of the eleven founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Her work from the 1890s to the 1950s included grand estates, public parks, college campuses, and the White House. The gardens of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC are considered the masterpiece of her career. Green Springs, this doyenne of grand spaces, was able to showcase her design philosophy in a small space.

Green Springs was the home of Michael and Belinda Straight, who were family friends of the designer. The garden room Farrand designed behind the house provided the perfect outdoor space for the Straights to entertain their important national and international guests. The spacious lawn is enclosed by a boxwood crescent.

The Garden Club of Virginia was asked to help preserve this historic garden. Under the direction of landscape architect, William D. Rieley, the stone retaining wall behind the crescent was rebuilt and perennials were planted in front of the boxwood crescent. The preservation of this garden was important for Green Springs, as they continue to educate visitors about Beatrix Farrand and her



important cultural legacy in American landscape design.

On June 10, 2015, the Garden Club of Virginia officially presented the restored Beatrix Farrand landscape to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Included among the guests were the Straights' son and his wife and the son of the Straights' garden caretaker. It is important and appropriate that the only Virginia garden of one of the most significant women landscape architects of the twentieth century has been restored by the Garden Club of Virginia. The garden is open for the public to visit and learn more about Farrand's work.

[This announcement was published in the Garden Club of Virginia "Restoration News," Number 7, January 2016. The author is a Garden Club of Virginia Restoration Committee member and liaison to Green Springs Garden.]

### Members in the News

SGHS Board Member **Lee Dunn** has written a biography entitled *Cracking the Solid South, The Life of John Fletcher Hanson, Father of Georgia Tech*. The book chronicles the life of this influential and controversial Georgia industrialist whose impact on the state's post-

Civil War development has never been fully explored. The book, published by Mercer University Press, will be released May 2, 2016. For further information or to purchase, visit: [www.leecdunn.com](http://www.leecdunn.com).





Southern Garden History Society

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## Awards and Scholarships

The **Flora Ann Bynum Award** is the highest award bestowed by the Southern Garden History Society. It is not awarded annually, but only occasionally to recipients who have rendered outstanding service to the society. Nominations may be made at any time by any member. The award will usually be presented at the annual meeting.

The title **Honorary Director** (Board of Directors) may be bestowed on individuals who have rendered exceptional service and made significant contributions to the society. Nominations for Honorary Director are made to the President by current Board members and are approved by the Board of Directors.

The **Certificate of Merit** is presented to a member or non-member, whose work has advanced the mission and goals of the society. Awarding of certificates will be approved by the Board of Directors and will usually be announced at the annual meeting.

Society **Scholarships** assist students in attending the society's annual meeting and are awarded to bona fide students enrolled in college and university majors relevant to the mission and goals of the society. The scholarship provides a waiver of registration fees plus \$500 to assist with travel and lodging.

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

## Annual Membership Dues

The society's membership year is from **August 1—July 31**. The membership secretary will mail renewal notices in the summer for the 2015-2016 year. Membership categories:

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

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

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

*Deadline for submitting articles for the Winter issue of Magnolia is March 7, 2016.*

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