



Magnolia

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

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Gardening in a Golden Age

The Twenty-first Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes
September 21-23, 2017

Davyd Foard Hood, Isinglass
Vale, North Carolina

Gardeners and garden historians alike look back on the early-twentieth century as a golden age, one of unprecedented garden-making in the United States and an era since unequaled. Men figured prominently in the period marked by a rising professionalism, expertise, and educational opportunities, following on the organization of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899. But it was women, energized by shifts in cultural views and social roles, and the use of wealth, who seized the moment. Long the patrons of male garden designers, many increased their garden making at home, for family as did Katharine Smith Reynolds at Reynolda, while others, like Beatrix Farrand, Annette Hoyt Flanders, and Ellen Biddle Shipman launched important careers as garden and landscape designers. Yet another group of talented women, inspired by the example of Gertrude Jekyll, took up writing about their own gardens, those of friends, and the gardens made by and for members of the rising tide of garden clubs. Alice Morse Earle, Mrs. Francis King, Helena Rutherford Ely, Neltje Blanchan, Elsa Rehmann, Grace Tabor, and Louise Beebe Wilder, a few of many, paved the way for our own Elizabeth Lawrence and Helen Van Pelt Wilson. Women also first excelled in garden photography in this period: Frances Benjamin Johnston and Mattie Edwards Hewitt were pioneers, gained commissions and prominence, and saw their photographs published in compilations such as Louise Shelton's *Beautiful Gardens in America*. Garden designers, garden writers, and garden photographers all enjoyed publication—and promotion—in the long roster of garden and shelter magazines launched in the opening years of the century. Then, there are the garden clubs, their garden-making, and their publications, most notably, the James River Garden Club's *Historic Gardens of Virginia*, edited by Edith Tunis Sale and published in 1923, *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-*



Town & Country magazine, March 1981; photo by Robert Phillips.

The James G. Hanes garden in its new role as the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

1933, and *History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee*. And lastly, garden tourism and the launch of today's Historic Garden Week in Virginia in 1929.

This understanding of an era, captured so handsomely in 1991 by Mac Griswold and Eleanor Weller in *The Golden Age of American Gardens: Proud Owners, Private Estates, 1890-1940*, was an important influence

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CALENDAR

May 12 through September 24, 2017. “Artist, Scientist, Explorer: Mark Catesby in the Carolinas,” an exhibition at the Gibbs Museum of Art, Charleston, SC. Featuring the British Royal Collection, this exhibition explores the incredible life and work of Mark Catesby, the English artist, scientist, and explorer who spent four years documenting the natural habitats of the Carolinas, Florida, and the Bahamas. The exhibition features forty-four paintings on loan from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from the British Royal Collection. Visit: www.gibbsmuseum.org

June 3-September 10, 2017. “The Genius of Martin Johnson Heade,” an exhibition of landscape and floral works at the Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia, Athens. The paintings of Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904) were rediscovered around World War II and he is now recognized as one of the most important American painters of the nineteenth century. For more information, (706) 542-4662, or www.georgiamuseum.org

September 8-9, 2017. Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello. Celebrate the revolutionary legacy of Thomas Jefferson workshops, lectures, and tomato tastings and more. Featured speakers include vegetable historians William Woys Weaver, Michael Twitty, Ira Wallace, Brie Arthur, and Tim Johnson. Visit: www.heritageharvestfestival.com

September 21-23, 2017. 21st Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes, “Gardening in the Golden Age: Southern Gardens & Landscapes of the Early 20th Century and the Challenges to their Preservation,” held in Winston-Salem, NC. [See lead article in this issue.] More details on our website: www.southerngardenhistory.org

October 21-22, 2017. The 29th Annual Southern Garden Symposium and Workshops, in St. Francisville, LA. Featured speakers include popular Mississippi author Margaret Gratz; Monticello’s Peggy Cornett; Jenny Wegley, Director of Horticulture for the Dallas Arboretum; and the entertaining floral design duo Tom and Nancy McIntyre. This gardening program, known for its engaging social events and historic plantation-setting venues, has become an annual tradition for garden enthusiasts from across the South. Visit: www.southerngardensymposium.org

April 13-15, 2018. SGHS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. Sites include The Cummer Museum and Gardens, Jacksonville’s Historic Parks, Glen Saint Mary Nurseries, and Historic St. Augustine. The headquarters hotel for guests, programs, and tour departures will be the DoubleTree by Hilton, 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207, (904) 398-8800. Group rate is \$123 per night plus tax. To qualify, identify that you are with the Southern Garden History Society. Cutoff date for registrations is March 13, 2018. More information will appear at www.southerngardenhistory.org

Join your Southern Garden History friends!

Social media enthusiasts can now follow SGHS on Instagram at:

<https://www.instagram.com/southerngardenhistory/>

and search for

#southerngardenhistory

on Facebook and Instagram.

SGHS Launches State Ambassadors Program

Spring heralded the arrival of a new initiative for the Society; our State Ambassadors Program, with the objectives of increasing scholarship and enhancing the benefits of membership. An ambassador has been assigned to each of our twelve member states. They will help to offer a once yearly gathering for members in their home states or regions for a special event, in addition to our Annual

Meeting. These events will be publicized by email to current members. Visit www.southerngardenhistory.org for a full list of State Ambassadors and watch for upcoming announcements via email for these exciting opportunities to connect with SGHS friends. For more information contact Lee Dunn, lee@dunnshouse.com. or Randy Harelson, rharelson@earthlink.net

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on our planning of the 2017 Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes Conference, "Gardening in a Golden Age: Southern Gardens & Landscapes of the Early 20th Century and the Challenges to Their Preservation." More recent scholarship in the period, some now published and other work underway, with expected publication, also encouraged our efforts.

Ever since the appearance of *Gardens For a Beautiful America, 1895-1935: Photographs by Frances Benjamin Johnston*, the conference planning committee has wanted to have Sam Watters, its author, speak at our conference. This year, coincident with his schedule and current research in Asheville on the career of Richard Morris Hunt, the architect of Biltmore House and other Gilded Age mansions, he will present the Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture on Thursday evening.

Benjamin Johnston's photographs are one important record of garden making during the first years of the twentieth century. Her images and those produced by others, including Miss Hewitt, became illustrations for the cascade of garden writing published in a host of newly-launched magazines and books. Virginia Grace Tuttle, a long-time associate curator at the National Gallery of Art, was a pioneer in this area of garden scholarship. Her landmark compendium, *The Once and Future Gardener: Garden Writing From the Golden Age of Magazines, 1900-1940* came into this author's hands on publication in 2000. Virginia Grace Tuttle opens the first of two sets of lectures on Friday morning with "I Hear Much Talk of the Soil These Days': Garden Art and Writing in America in the Early Twentieth Century." Conference participants will next enjoy a preview of *Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens*, which is to be published by the University of Georgia Press in April 2018. Its co-authors,



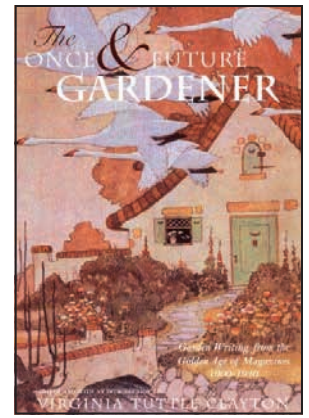
Frances Benjamin Johnston with her camera.

Staci Catron, director of the Cherokee Garden Library and a past president of the Southern Garden History Society, and Mary Ann Eaddy, a career-long member of the State Historic Preservation Offices in South Carolina and Georgia, will share the podium and their knowledge of Georgia's historic early-twentieth century gardens.

Dreck Spurlock Wilson, a Washington, D.C. based educator, writer, and practitioner in the fields of horticulture, architecture, and landscape architecture, will follow with an introduction to the life and career of a native son who has remained too-little known to us and too many others. He concludes the opening set of lectures with his presentation on David Williston (1868-1962), who was born near Fayetteville, North Carolina, received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from Cornell University in 1898, and became the first professionally trained black landscape architect in the United States and the first to establish his own professional office. Mr. Williston had a long, distinguished career as an educator and campus planner at historically black colleges and universities, most notably at Tuskegee Institute and Howard University.

A pair of lectures in Friday morning's second session will provide a valuable introduction to the afternoon garden tours and information of real interest to attendees in general. Camilla Wilcox, the now-retired director of education for Reynolda Gardens, will address the role of landscape architects in the early-twentieth century development of Winston, supported by unprecedented profits in tobacco and textile manufacturing and other, related industries, which led to Winston's merger with Salem in 1913. This civic expansion began in 1890 with Jacob Lott Ludlow's design of West End, Winston's first picturesque residential park.

Horatio Robert Buckenham (1853-194_), a London-born civil engineer, and Louis Leprillete Miller (1875-1948), a native of Providence, Rhode Island, practicing in partnership, came to Winston in about 1906 to enhance the grounds of R. J. Reynolds' Queen Anne-style Fifth Street mansion. They enjoyed the continued patronage of Katharine Smith Reynolds (1880-1924) for the early work at Reynolda, producing an estate master plan in 1911, while also designing the grounds of the Methodist-sup-



David Williston

Collection of Howard Univ.

Library of Congress, Photographs & Prints Division

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ported Children's Home and West Highlands, a residential park. After the partnership was dissolved in about 1912, Louis L. Miller remained in Mrs. Reynolds' employ until 1914-1915, when he was replaced and succeeded by Thomas Warren Sears (1880-1966). Although Louis L. Miller would return to Winston-Salem for expansions of West Highlands into the late 1920s, the day now belonged to Thomas Sears, whose patronage by Mrs. Reynolds guaranteed his engagement by a distinguished roster of wealthy clients.

Ellen Biddle Shipman (1869-1950) likewise enjoyed the patronage of Winston-Salem's elite, following the footsteps of Thomas Sears to the city, and creating gardens on estates or suburban lots for which he earlier had prepared overall conceptual plans. In 1929 Ralph and DeWitt Chatham Hanes invited Ellen Biddle Shipman to Winston-Salem and asked her to design the formal garden and grounds of their grand new Georgian Revival-style house. It was the beginning of a personal and professional relationship that continued to Mrs. Shipman's death in 1950. As with Mrs. Reynolds' engagement of Thomas Sears, this was an important, influential relationship that secured commissions from ten other clients, most notably seven members of the extended Hanes family, including James Gordon Hanes, Robert March Hanes (1890-1959), Pleasant Huber Hanes (1880-1967), and Mrs. Martha Thurmond Chatham, Dewitt Hanes' mother.

In the course of research for the preparation of a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Robert March Hanes House, in the Sears-designed Stratford Place subdivision, architectural historian Laura A. W. Phillips examined the status and integrity of all eleven known Shipman commissions in Winston-Salem. In doing so she was able to establish the significance of the Robert M. Hanes garden among the five surviving Shipman gardens that continue to reflect Shipman's original design. Laura will be reflecting on this research and her findings in a presentation titled "Mrs. Shipman Comes To Town: The

Work of Ellen Biddle Shipman in Winston-Salem, North Carolina." Her monograph, *Grand Illusions: Historic Decorative Interior Painting in North Carolina*, is scheduled for publication this fall with distribution by UNC Press.

The Friday afternoon Garden Tour will be by thirty-passenger trolleys for both ease of access and visibility. Guides on each will provide commentary as the trolleys depart the Old Salem Visitor Center and make their way from Salem into suburban Winston-Salem. Each of the guides will bring a deep knowledge of Winston-Salem, its architectural and landscape history, and somewhat differing perspectives to their presentations.

Sherold Drake Hollingsworth, a long-time member of SGHS and a garden designer and educator in landscape architecture, has the added experience of being an assistant to and researcher for Barbara Babcock Millhouse, the founding president of the Reynolda House Museum of American Art. Barbara Millhouse is a granddaughter of Richard Joshua and Katharine Smith Reynolds. Heather Fearnbach, a Winston-Salem native, has an enviable experience as an architectural historian in North Carolina and neighboring states in both public and private capacities and as head of her own firm, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., since 2008. Her long years of research and an admirable commitment to place came to fruition in 2015 with the publication of *Winston-Salem's Architectural Heritage*, the finest volume to date in a series of individual city-and county-wide architectural histories in North Carolina published in varying formats since the 1970s. Margaret Supplee Smith, a retired professor of art history and chair of the Art Department at Wake Forest University has curated exhibitions on Reynolda and women's history in North Carolina, and is the co-author of *North Carolina Women Making History* published by UNC Press in 1999. She is currently researching "Winston-Salem's first families, great houses, and gracious gardens of the 1920s" for a book sponsored by Preservation North Carolina.

The tour features visits to four gardens and drives



Reynolda, Greenhouses.

Collection of Reynolda House Museum of American Art.



Ellen Biddle Shipman at her desk.

through Graylyn, the former estate of Bowman (1874-1935) and Nathalie Lyons (1884-1961) Gray Bernard, and now a Wake Forest University conference center, and Reynolda Park, an elegant 1920s residential park designed by Thomas Sears. The acreage of both was originally a part of the Reynolda Estate. While visits to Reynolda's gardens have been a mainstay of our conference, landscape restoration and replanting on the grounds since our 2015 conference, associated in part with its centennial this year, provide an appealing reason to return. At Reynolda, as at the other gardens on tour, attendees on each trolley will be welcomed by staff (or otherwise knowledgeable hosts).

Following the death of Hugh Gwyn Chatham (1864-1929), the president of Chatham Manufacturing Company, in October 1929, his heirs decided to adapt the family's country retreat off today's Robinhood Road as the setting of three rural family estates. Tracts surrounding a large pond, impounded for fishing, were surveyed and set apart. Mr. Chatham's widow, Martha Thurmond Chatham (1870-1934), bought a Federal-style Middleton family plantation house in McCormick County, South Carolina, and had it moved and rebuilt on a knoll overlooking the pond by architect William Roy Wallace. Their daughter, DeWitt T. Chatham Hanes (1899-1990) and her husband, Ralph Philip Hanes (1898-1973), erected a large, imposing Georgian Revival-style house designed by architect Julian Peabody (1881-1935) on another desirable site, also overlooking the pond. Mr. Peabody was a partner in the New York firm of Peabody, Wilson and Brown. They then engaged Ellen Biddle Shipman to design the estate grounds and garden. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hanes' older brother, James Gordon Hanes (1886-1972), president of Hanes Hosiery Company, and his second wife, Mary Walton Ruffin Hanes (1898-1957), commissioned the design of a handsome stone English Manorial-style house from Mr. Peabody and its garden and grounds from Mrs. Shipman. Coincident with these projects Mrs. Shipman also devised landscape improvements for Mrs. Chatham's Middleton House.

The tour will include visits to the Ralph and DeWitt Hanes house and garden, now the residence of the president of Wake Forest University, and the James G. Hanes estate, whose grounds were partially redesigned by Brooks E. Wigginton (1922-1995) in the 1970s when the mansion became the new, present museum of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA). (With his students, Mr. Wigginton, a professor at the University of



Graylyn, stonebridge.

Collection of Reynolda House Museum of American Art.

Georgia, also designed the Memorial Foundation Gardens in Athens, Georgia.) Peggy Cornett, who worked as DeWitt Hanes' gardener for about two years and resided on the estate in the late 1970s, will share her memories of the legendary gardener and her garden with attendees, along with Drake Flynt who now tends the property for Wake Forest. Traveling to both these gardens by way of their original, shared entrance through Colonial Revival-style gates on Robinhood Road, the trolleys will also drive by Middleton House.

In order to allow tour members to better experience these gardens in small numbers, the trolleys will follow three slightly different routes and visit the gardens in a varying sequence. Attendees will arrive at about the same time at the end of the tour for our visit to the historic Bunyan Snipes Womble (1882-1976) House on Stratford Road, where landscape architect Chip Callaway will receive us on behalf of Gary and Sandy Poehling, the owners, for whom he created the present garden. The grounds of the Womble House, designed by Charles Barton Keen who had earlier designed Reynolda House, are also the setting of a glasshouse that originally stood at Graylyn and was saved and relocated to Stratford Place. The afternoon tour ends with a drive along nearby Runnymede and its stone bridges, all that remains today—except photographs—of the Municipal Iris Gardens.

On Saturday conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit the museums of Old Salem and Reynolda House Museum of American Art on the presentation/display of their name tags. At Reynolda, "Georgia O'Keefe: Liv-

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1981 photograph of Mrs. Ralph P. (DeWitt) Hanes seated in her entrance hall beneath "Madame X Goes to the Opera" by Mary Cassatt.

Town & Country magazine, March 1981

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ing Modern” is on view in the traveling exhibition galleries. Admission to the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art and its current show, “Subliminal,” featuring the work of Taha Heydari, is free.

The 2017 Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscape Conference is generously supported by the Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem, Twin City Garden Club, Club of Twenty Gardens, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Jeff Allen Landscape Architecture, LLC, and the North Carolina Chapter, Institute of Classical Architecture and Art. The Conference Committee also gratefully acknowledges the support and cooperation of Salem Academy and College

and the opportunity it provides to open the Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture to a wider audience in Winston-Salem. Long-time attendees at our conferences will recall the pleasure of dinners at the Rondthaler-Gramley House. With the cooperation of Salem Academy and College, this year’s conference participants will again enjoy dinner in a pleasant, warmly-remembered setting.

Note: Davyd Foard Hood, Martha Hartley of Old Salem Museums & Gardens, and Phil Archer of Reynolda House Museum of American Art are co-chairs of the committee for the 2017 Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscape Conference.

“Roots of the Bluegrass,” Review of the SGHS Annual Meeting in Lexington Kentucky

Friday, May 26:

The Society’s first ever Kentucky gathering opened with a welcome from Derek Wade, co-coordinator of the 2016 annual meeting in Charleston, SC, and President Susan Haltom who noted that we were marking an amazing thirty-fifth annual meeting anniversary. The Society greatly appreciates the hard work of the annual meeting steering committee—Leslie B. James, Jan Meyer, Jennifer Steen, Sue Fosson, Margaret Lane, and Dede McGehee—and the many volunteers who tirelessly and graciously welcomed SGHS members to their beautiful state.

A second greeting came from former Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen, who laid the foundations of the meeting through an overview of the “Roots of the Bluegrass.” Having served with seven governors in varying capacities, Ms. Luallen can also boast of Kentucky roots going back seven generations. She offered a concise yet comprehensive look at the state’s history, people, and economy, from eighteenth-century settlement via the Cumberland Gap to today’s Kentucky of horses and bourbon and (though faced with preservation challenges) amazing landscapes.

Society members were then treated to a talk by Kenneth Brooks on the Lexington work of the Olmsted brothers. Dr. Brooks, a long-time professional planner, traced the history of the Olmsted family’s work in Kentucky, addressing their efforts in Louisville and Frankfurt, prior to offering a detailed discussion of their Lexington endeavors. The first project, he noted, was Woodland Park, followed by Ashland Park, the latter incorporating acreage formerly part of the Henry Clay estate. He observed that Ashland Park reflected the Olmsted philosophy through the use of open, public spaces and a mix of home sizes, all enhancing a sense of

community... a community where our speaker now makes his home.

Next, Carleton Wood presented a talk entitled “A Splendid View: Creating Beauty in the Bluegrass, 1796-1929,” which examined four properties: Chaumière, Elmendorf Farm, Woodburn, and Cave Hill. Stressing Kentucky’s ties to Virginia, our Immediate-Past-President first spoke about David Meade (d. 1832), who in 1796 left his remarkable Virginia gardens to establish “La Chaumiere des Prairie” on 330 Kentucky acres. The eye-pleasing results were said to resemble an English landscape garden. At no great distance, Scotsman Robert Alexander (d. 1841) established “Woodburn,” where his descendants set up a widely known horse breeding operation. Various twists of fortune led to a division of Woodburn, one segment becoming “Airdrie,” now the home of former Kentucky Governor and Mrs. Jones. Here, Mr. and Mrs. Williams Simms, Mrs. Jones’s grandparents and descendants of Robert Alexander, engaged landscape architect Jens Jensen to impart a naturalistic design to their grounds following a major storm. Jensen also completed two other nearby commissions for the Simms and Alexander families. Overlooked next was Elmendorf



Annual business meeting and dinner in the Round Barn at Red Mile.

Photo by Perry Mathewes.

Farm, which under multi-millionaire James Ben Ali Haggin (d.1914) became one of the most remarkable estates in the nation, and a major center for rearing fine horses. The discussion closed with a look at Cave Hill, a site scheduled for a Sunday visit. Here in the 1920s Ellen Biddle Shipman aided owners Mr. and Mrs. Christian de Waal to produce designs for a garden and various landscape components, her works now being archived at Cornell.

Departing the hotel, members visited antebellum “Botherum,” a site remarkable by any standard. Here owners John Carloftis and Dale Fisher gave us refreshments, a brief talk on their home, and a chance to explore almost every nook and cranny inside and out. From the fine 1851 Greek Revival house, to its amazing garden setting and huge ginkgo, Botherum spoke to the history of Lexington, the garden design talents of Mr. Carloftis, and the dedication of its residents. SGHS members were fortunate indeed to be so welcomed and to enjoy a historic home second to none.

Our final event of the day found members at a site very different from Botherum but nonetheless fascinating and very much a part of Lexington history. Once known as Floral Hall (built in 1882), and now termed the Round Barn at Red Mile, our gigantic octagonal meeting place celebrates Lexington’s harness racing tradition. Along with our business meeting, members enjoyed a bourbon tasting, a great meal, and the convivial pleasure of talking with old friends and making new ones. What a great day it had been!

Saturday, May 27:

Marianne Sales opened the Saturday morning session with a preview of the Society’s 2018 annual meeting, set for Jacksonville, Florida, April 13-15. Members will explore the Cummer Museum and Garden, Glen St. Mary Nurseries, and Jacksonville’s historic parks and private gardens. The Sunday optional tour will go to historic St. Augustine. SGHS member Judith Tankard’s book, *Ellen Biddle Shipman and the American Garden*, set for publication in 2018, will be highlighted.

Following the 2018 preview, forest scientist Tom Kimmerer spoke on “Venerable Trees: History, Biology and Conservation in the Bluegrass.” Author of a book of the same name, Kimmerer is chief scientist at Venerable Trees, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving woodland pastures and ancient trees in the Bluegrass Region. He spoke on the evolution of and present-day pressures on a unique ecosystem of open grassland and cane under the high shade of centuries-old trees. This landscape, created not by fire but rather by the intermittent grazing of migrating bison, has remained unchanged for thousands of years. These woodland pastures are also evident in Eastern European landscapes where the European bison once roamed.

Kimmerer focused on five significant species: bur,



Photo by Perry Mathewes.

Tom Kimmerer discusses venerable trees with SGHS members visiting Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate.

Shumard, and chinquapin oaks; blue ash; and kingnut or shellbark hickory. To these he added white ash and hackberry. Today there are seventy-five clusters of venerable trees in urban Lexington. His presentation began with an image of the still-standing Josiah Collins Block House, built in 1782 out of bur oak logs. Seen were historic images showing these tree populations on Bluegrass country estates as well as giant specimens extant in horse pastures. Shown too was the largest American basswood found in Lexington Cemetery and national arboretum, which members visited on the Sunday optional tour.

Kimmerer challenged the audience to think in tree time with the understanding that trees actually grow faster as they age. In fact, it has been determined that trees have negligible senescence, are biologically immortal.

Eric Brooks, curator of Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, addressed the history of the home of this significant early American political figure. He discussed the building and rebuilding of the Italianate-style home, begun in 1812, which was designed in part by the famed architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe. Clay (1777-1852), “The Great Compromiser,” was not only a major national figure, but also an attorney, farmer, and horseman whose love of racing played a major role in Lexington becoming the “horse capital of the world.” He also espoused progressive agrarianism and scientific farming and was a staunch advocate for the production of American Hemp, which became Ashland’s principle crop. The property experienced a renewal in 1882 when purchased by Henry Clay McDowell and Ann McDowell. The Henry Clay Memorial Foundation was established in 1926, and Ashland was opened as a museum in 1950. Twenty acres of the original six-hundred-acre estate remain, and the site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960.

Kimberly DeCamp followed Brooks with an overview of the Garden Club of Lexington’s role in preserving and maintaining the gardens at Ashland. In 1950 the board of the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation chose the Garden Club, which was founded in 1916 with twelve members,

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"Roots of the Bluegrass," (continued from page 7)

to create and maintain the garden seen today. When the group was first approached there was a debate between two factions: the "Old Garden" and the "New Garden" groups. Proponents of the "Old Garden" wanted to work with the overgrown but extant garden of Thomas Clay McDowell, the last owner, even though it did not relate the Henry Clay, while the other faction wanted something entirely new. Ultimately the "New Garden" proponents narrowly prevailed. Cincinnati landscape architect Henry Fletcher Kenney was commissioned to design the new garden. The walled garden design emphasized a more traditional, formal parterre style, which is beautifully maintained to by the Garden Club of Lexington members. Today the formal garden contains over one-hundred twenty varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Members then boarded buses to tour Ashland, including the walled garden and surrounding landscape. Tom Kimmerer was on hand to discuss the many ancient trees still standing on the grounds. The buses next transported members through the verdant Kentucky countryside to Darby Dan Farm, a beautiful 1,000-acre horse farm and site of Darby Dan Manor House, built in 1828. The farm's breeding operation has produced a long history of Kentucky Derby winners. Stallion Manager Ryan Watson introduced SGHS members to Shackleford, a magnificent horse, and to the intricacies involved in breeding a Thoroughbred champion.

The day concluded with a behind-the-scenes tour of Keeneland Racecourse, an impressive facility on the National Register of Historic Places and listed a National Historic Landmark in 1986. Named for Jack Keene, an internationally known Thoroughbred trainer, whose property was selected out of twenty locations, Keeneland Racecourse was established in 1936 to carry on Kentucky's Thoroughbred tradition. Today it is a leading Thoroughbred auction house and racetrack, offering a beautiful, park-like setting, which is open to the public year round. Members enjoyed cocktails and dinner in the Lafayette Room overlooking the racetrack, along with a special "night at the races," during which we could place bets with play money on a number of video-taped races.

Sunday, May 28:

Sunday tours began at Lexington Cemetery. Members started at the entrance, viewing an impressive 1890 Romanesque-style gatehouse. Established in 1849, this rural cemetery has a park-like landscape set out with curvilinear drives, three lakes, over two-hundred species of trees and shrubs, and an assortment of ornamental monuments. Cemetery horticulturist Miles T. Penn discussed the large variety of trees found in the arboretum. Of particular significance is an American basswood (noted earlier) that is 101 feet in height with an 18' 7" circumference. This specimen is recognized as the

largest of its kind in the United States by the American Forestry Association. The cemetery is also home to many headstones, sculptures, and monuments, including the graves of various notable Kentuckians. Erected in 1857 following his 1852 death, the Henry Clay native limestone monument consists of a 120-foot tall Corinthian column surmounted by a statue of Clay. The cemetery also contains the remains of Union, Confederate, and Spanish-American War soldiers. This 170-acre site, with over 71,000 interments, is considered one of the most beautiful cemeteries in America.

The next stop featured a tour of the private gardens at Antony and Angela Becks' Gainesway, a premier Thoroughbred farm with a long history of raising champion racehorses and standing leading stallions. The 1,500-acre site, off Paris Pike, was formerly part of James Ben Ali Haggin's famous Elmendorf Farm and has achieved Level II-accredited arboretum status through ArbNet, an international community of arboreta established by the Morton Arboretum. The only horse farm in the world with this accreditation, Gainesway has over 10,000 accessions and showcases over 1,000 species of trees, shrubs, and plants. The gardens at Gainesway are as impressive as its arboretum. Created in the late 1990s, the garden at the Beck family residence features more than a dozen components, including a formal garden designed by renowned English designer Rosemary Verey. Members enjoyed the intricacy of the designs, aesthetic viewpoints, and lush plantings.

After enjoying boxed lunches in the dining facilities of the Hunt-Morgan House, members explored the historic gems found in the Gratz Park Historic District. Located two blocks north of Main Street in downtown Lexington, this historic neighborhood (with a city park) is between Transylvania University and West Second Street. Gratz Park is on a tract that was established in 1781, outside the original boundaries of Lexington. In 1793, the park was purchased by Transylvania Seminary as a site for its Lexington campus. Following a fire that destroyed the



Stallion manager Ryan Watson with Thoroughbred champion Shackleford at Darby Dan Farm.

Photo by Perry Mathewes.



Photo by Staci Catron.

Members arrive at Gainesway Farm to tour the private gardens designed by Rosemary Verey.

main campus building in 1829, the Transylvania campus moved across Third Street to its current location. The Old Kitchen Building, from the early nineteenth century, is the only structure from this original campus that remains on the edge of Gratz Park. Originally dedicated as Centennial Park in 1876, the green-space—now Gratz Park—was later named for early Lexington businessman Benjamin Gratz. Today, the exquisite nineteenth-century townhouses built for Lexington’s prominent citizens characterize the Gratz Park Historic District. Docent-led tours were given at the Hunt-Morgan House, a Federal-style residence built in 1814 by John Wesley Hunt, the first millionaire west of the Alleghenies. Members could also stroll through the Hunt-Morgan House gardens. Other historic properties of interest were the Carnegie Library (1906), that anchors the southern end of Gratz Park; the Bodley-Bullock House (ca. 1814, now home to the Junior League of Lexington); the Ridgely House (ca. 1794, the oldest house in Gratz Park); and the Goodloe Houses, known as the Three Ugly Sisters (ca. 1901, built by the widow Mrs. William Cassius Goodloe for her three daughters). A special treat was a tour through the private garden of Dr. Elvis and Geneva Donaldson at Hope House.

The last stop for the day was Cave Hill off the Old Harrodsburg Road, the home of Dr. Jim and Lucy Owen, whose gracious hospitality was much appreciated. Built in 1821 by David Bryan, Cave Hill had numerous subsequent owners including Dutch businessman Christian de Waal who renamed the property Clingendaal after the oldest racecourse in his native Holland. In 1928, he and his wife engaged renowned American landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman, who created her elaborate garden design within the existing nineteenth-century walled garden at Cave Hill. The original plan was a formal boxwood arrangement outlined with brick-laid paths and enclosed beds of anchusa, foxgloves, lilies, peonies, and delphiniums. The crescent-shaped fountain in the brick wall was draped in wisteria. With her love of Chinese culture, Mrs. de Waal desired Asian details, including Ming figures, two great fish bowls, and a figure of the

Chinese goddess of agriculture. Members enjoyed an overview of the site’s history and current plans for the historic garden by Lucy Owen. Landscape historian Judith Tankard also discussed the importance of Shipman and the common Shipman-design elements seen in the garden at Cave Hill. SGHS President Susan Haltom presented the Owens with copies of the Shipman Cave Hill garden plans (1928-1929) held at Cornell University in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Carl A. Kroch Library. The hardscape elements still remain, including the brick paths, the wooden gate, and teahouse. The Owens have continued to add period-appropriate plants to the site.

Monday, May 29:

A few members, remaining in the Lexington area on Memorial Day, were able to visit two private historic houses and gardens. The first site, located in Versailles, was the home of Peggy and Joe Graddy (1957-2015). In the mid-1980s, they purchased the original Graddy home known as Homestead (ca. 1792-95). Joe personally restored the house, and the couple collected and filled it with early American antiques. In 2006, Joe and his son Ike completed an addition in keeping with the original dwelling. Joe had an avid interest in collecting and propagating boxwood from historic sites in central Kentucky. He used these to create a series of formal garden rooms at Homestead.

The second offering was Walnut Lawn Farm, the home of Leslie and Bob James and sons, located on Military Pike in Fayette County. Going “above and beyond” the call of duty, Leslie, Chair of the Lexington SGHS Annual Meeting, and her family opened their doors to members. Since 1842 this land has been continuously farmed by the James Family. Bob James is the fifth generation to live here and farm; with sons, Robert and John, as the sixth generation. The 1893 Victorian house is grand and filled with family antiques. Many of the nineteenth-century structures remain, including a weaving house, kitchen, dairy, ice-house, and barns. Behind the main house is an intricate boxwood garden, dating to the early twentieth century, which features box topiaries of a cat and a rabbit. Like the Graddys, the James Family strongly believes in the preservation of Bluegrass farmland, an irreplaceable treasure in the landscape of America. To this end, the James’s enrolled their four-hundred-acre farm in the Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) to protect the land from development.

Annual Meeting Review by *Magnolia* editors Kenneth M. McFarland (May 26), Peggy Cornett (May 27), and Staci Catron (May 28-29).

For a photo gallery of the annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky visit: <http://southerngardenhistory.org/events/annual-meeting/2017-lexington-photos/>

Book Review

Taking Root: The Nature Writing of William and Adam Summer of Pomaria, by James Everett Kibler Jr., editor | University of South Carolina Press | Hardcover, 336 pages | ISBN-10: 1611177758; ISBN-13: 9781611177756 | 2017, List Price \$39.99

Everyone engaged in the nineteenth-century gardening and horticultural history of the American South can be grateful that James Everett Kibler Jr. has made the study of Pomaria—the nursery and the plantation—and the lives of its proprietors his life’s work. Long-standing members of the Southern Garden History Society have appreciated his scholarship from its outset. His first published essay on the topic, “On Reclaiming a Southern Antebellum Garden Heritage: An Introduction to Pomaria Nurseries,” appeared in *Magnolia*, Vol. X, No. 1, 1993. Lectures and papers followed, including those presented at the Georgia Botanical Garden in 2005 and 2006 and at the annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society in Camden, South Carolina, in April 2009. Five years later Mr. Kibler’s research was the basis of an exhibition, “Taking Root: The Summer Brothers and the History of Pomaria Nursery,” at the McKissick Museum of the University of South Carolina. This author had the good fortune to attend the opening of the exhibition and enjoy Mr. Kibler’s gallery talk in June 2014. (See review in *Magnolia*, Vol. XXVII, No. 2, 2014.) Now, in the summer of 2017, “Taking Root” reappears as the title of a new anthology, *Taking Root: The Nature Writing of William and Adam Summer of Pomaria*.

Readers of *Taking Root*, however, will learn that the 1993 account followed on long years of research—a score of Mr. Kibler’s days in fact. His scholarly odyssey began in 1972 when, in his late twenties, he paid a call on Marie Summer Huggins (1892-1974), the granddaughter of Henry Summer (1809-1869) and the grandniece of William (1815-1878) and Adam (1809-1866) Summer. Mrs. Huggins, a widow, lived in the Federal-style family seat at Pomaria in rural Newberry County, South Carolina, in the house these sons of John Adam Summer (1779-1855) knew as home. It was little changed from their day and it still held furniture, books, and other furnishings of at least four descendent generations and the surviving business records of the namesake Pomaria Nursery.

Later in the Preface, when appreciating Mrs. Huggins’



stewardship of her Summer family legacy, Mr. Kibler quotes a statement by Allen Tate, the Agrarian poet: “the task of the civilised intelligence is one of perpetual salvage.” This sentence also compliments the efforts of Marie Summer Huggins’ elder sister, Rosalyn Summer Sease (1889-1981), who donated Pomaria records and Summer family documents to the South Caroliniana Library, and those of her granddaughter Catherine Sease who saw her grandmother’s memoir into (private) print as *Family Facts and Fantasies*. The donations were made on Mr. Kibler’s recommendation.

As readers progress through the pages of *Taking Root*, discovering anew the appeal and present-day relevance of the antebellum essays collected therein, they will realize that this anthology and Jim Kibler’s other writings on the Summer family and Pomaria are themselves the products of enlightened “perpetual salvage.” Through sustained research in private papers and public records, and being a native of Newberry County himself, he has entered the lives of his subjects to a degree few scholars can achieve. This knowledge of the careers of William and Adam Summer, their advanced ideas on agricultural practices and improvements, views on the landscape development of home grounds and the landscape of community, augmented by his determined acquisition of (available) books and other printed materials once owned and oftentimes annotated by William and Adam Summer, is the basis of the extended essay that provides an overview of the collected writings and the shorter notes that introduce each of the ninety-nine individual essays—and one poem—penned by the brothers.

In the opening paragraph of his Foreword, Wendell Berry offers a brief, intelligent description of these writings for today’s readers, identifying them as “a collection of observations, judgments, and instructions permanently useful to anybody interested—and to anybody not yet interested—in the right ways of inhabiting, using, and conserving the natural, the given, world.” He further affirms “farming and nature are inseparable”: man’s proper cultivation of fields, meadows, and woodlands is, in fact, an innate practice of conservation. When published in their day, in the pages of agricultural journals of antebellum America, they appealed to like readers. With but a few exceptions most of the articles and essays appeared in three important Southern journals, published in South Carolina, for which William and/or Adam Summer were editors. By April 1845, at the age of twenty-six, Adam Summer had become editor of the *South Carolinian*, which was published in Columbia, and he held that position for some three years. “The Jerusalem Artichoke,” his first known agricultural writing, was first published in the *Albany Cultivator* (NY) in February 1845 and reprinted in the *South Carolinian* weeks later on 20 March, in the company of “The Season,” his reflection on a day spent in the country. Articles by both William and

Adam Summer appeared in the *South Carolinian* through 1848, with some of Adam's published under his *nom de plume*, "Vesper Brackett." Adam Summer's address before the Southern Central Agricultural Society in Macon, Georgia, in October 1852, published as a pamphlet in 1853, is an engaging, well-developed essay and the longest of his writings in this anthology.

William and Adam Summer co-edited the *Southern Agriculturist*, a monthly journal owned by Robert Martin Stokes (1817-1898) and published in Laurens, South Carolina, from January 1853 to July 1854, when Mr. Stokes ended its publication. Thirty-one of the 250 essays and articles the brothers wrote separately during this period are reprinted in *Taking Root*. For a brief seven months in 1856 Adam Summer was editor of the *South Carolina Agriculturist*, the monthly organ of the State Agricultural Society in South Carolina. His tribute to the Cumberland cherry appeared in its June 1856 issue.

On the eve of the Civil War, a second critical collaboration occurred between William and Adam Summer and Robert Martin Stokes, their English-born patron and the publisher of *Farmer and Planter*. Nearly one-half of the writings (forty-two of ninety-nine) collected in this anthology first appeared in the *Farmer and Planter*, between January 1859 and September 1861. The influential, monthly journal was edited by William Summer. Adam Summer contributed numerous articles that were published under his own name or various nicknames, including "An Old Grumbler," or marked by an asterisk that indicated his authorship to a knowing reader. William Summer's "Essay on Reforesting

the Country," first published in the *Transactions of the State Agricultural Society of South Carolina for 1859*, was reprinted in *Farmer and Planter* in June 1860. His review of Mary Catherine Weir Rion's *Ladies' Southern Florist*, published in Columbia in 1860 by Peter B. Glass, appeared in the November 1860 issue of *Farmer and Planter*. "Here," he wrote, "we have a work that should be in the hands of every lady of the South." That same admonition could be invoked, with the inclusion of gentlemen, for *Taking Root: The Nature Writing of William and Adam Summer of Pomaria*.

Davyd Foard Hood
Isinglass
Vale, North Carolina

Author's Note: Plans are in hand to have copies of *Taking Root* for sale at the Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes Conference in Old Salem, 21-23 September 2017.



Jim Kibler's work as a historian has contemporary parallels in his fictional writings, most notably his Clay Bank County series, which was launched in 2006 with the publication of *Memory's Keep. Tiller*, the fourth and final volume in the series set in Upcountry South Carolina, was published in 2016 by Shotwell Publishing, Columbia, SC.



A review of **Warren H. Manning: Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner** will appear in the next issue of *Magnolia*.

Members in the News

Dorothy Holden (Deedy) Bumgardner was awarded the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement on May 17, 2017, at the 97th Garden Club of Virginia Annual Meeting, hosted by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club in Fredericksburg. Deedy served as GCV president (2004-06), GCV treasurer and restoration committee treasurer, and chaired the restoration and nominations committees. During her presidency, projects such as a new Strategic Plan and the approval of partnerships with Jamestown 2007 and the National Park Service for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail were implemented.

SGHS board member and Arcadian Gardener **Greg Grant** is a recipient of the 2017 Lone Star Land

Stewards Award, bestowed each year by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the nonprofit Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Grant lives on his grandparent's longtime farm in Arcadia, Texas, an east Texas tract of land where he continues to restore parcels of native habitat for the benefit of wildlife and the education of his fellow landowners. In addition to restoring his great-grandparent's 1890s dogtrot style farmhouse, Grant also cooperated with the Stephen F. Austin State University Center of Regional Heritage Research as the pilot community for their "Voices from Small Places" project, and over the last twenty years, has hosted hundreds of visitors for educational and recreational tours of the property. Visit: www.sfasu.edu/heritagecenter/8694.asp

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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. For those without internet access, a copy of this document can be mailed. Contact Virginia Hart, SGHS Administrator.

Annual Membership Dues

The society's membership year is from **August 1—July 31**.
 Membership categories:

Benefactor	\$500 and above*
Patron	\$250
Sustainer	\$125
Institution or Business	\$100
Joint	\$60
<i>(two individuals living in the same household)</i>	
Individual	\$40
Student	\$15

***Contact the membership coordinator if you would like to pay more than \$500 via credit card.**

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

Email: membership@southerngardenhistory.org

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

Deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of Magnolia is September 30, 2017.

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