



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

Magnolia

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SGHS Annual Meeting Returned to Mount Vernon

By Adam Martin, Atlanta, Georgia

The Southern Garden History Society returned to George Washington's Mount Vernon for its 38th annual meeting. This is the fourth annual meeting held at Mount Vernon; previous meetings were held in 1990, 2000, and 2010.

The gathering was originally planned for 2020 but delayed by two years by the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizers Dean Norton (of Mount Vernon) and Gail Griffin, however, overcame many logistical obstacles to create yet another memorable, educational, and inspiring experience. Additional gratitude to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association for hosting SGHS.

Thanks to Rebecca Hodson, Leslie Bird, and Terry Tosh for their gracious assistance.

On Friday afternoon, April 22, members excitedly gathered for the business meeting at Alexandria's Sheraton Suite Old Town conference center. Two lectures followed. First, Peggy Cornett, Curator of Plants at Monticello, gave an insider's review of efforts to preserve Thomas Jefferson's gardening legacy at Monticello. Next, garden designer Chip Callaway presented many of his garden designs from his forty-five-year career with laugh-inducing stories. The evening was spent on the grounds of George Mason's Gunston Hall. Attendees observed the initial efforts to restore the formal gardens and toured the restored eighteenth-century house, which boasts a significant amount of original woodwork, wall plaster, and flooring. Following tours, attendees were treated to dinner and long overdue fellowship at the visitor center.

Saturday delivered various new content through presentations while honoring and savoring traditions attendees surely came expecting. Peter Del Tredici, senior research scientist emeritus at the Arnold Arboretum, kicked off the morning with a history of plant trade



Dean Norton on Mount Vernon's iconic bowling green giving an overview of the landscape with SGHS members.

Photo by Perry Mathewes.

between Japan and the United States, the geopolitics involved, the nurserymen, and the impacts those plants have made in our Southern landscapes. Next, Doug Fine, author of *American Hemp Farmer* and *Hempbound*, reviewed the myriad uses of hemp historically, including on George Washington's farms, as well as its uses today, and argued for its modern utility and significance in the

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CALENDAR

"A Century in the Gardens," an exhibit at Dumbarton Oaks celebrating the 100th anniversary of Beatrix Farrand's design of the garden's landscape. The exhibit includes archival images, as well as newly commissioned photographs, selections from the Rare Book Collection, and a design timeline. Visit: doaks.org

October 14-15, 2022. The Southern Garden Symposium, in St. Francisville, LA, features lectures, workshops, and tours of the gardens of historic Afton Villa gardens and Rosedown Plantation. As part of the symposium's mission, proceeds fund numerous restoration and beautifications projects and endowment of professorship at LSU's Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture. This year's speakers include Brandon Branch, Laura Dowling, Keith Eggener, Jenks Farmer, Ellen Kennon, Carol Reese, and Susan Roland. Visit: thesoutherngardensymposium.org

October 19, 2022. Cherokee Garden Library Talk, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA. Janisse Ray, author, naturalist, and activist, will discuss her latest book, *Wild Spectacle: Seeking Wonders in a World Beyond Humans*, March 2022). Visit: atlantahistorycenter.com/events/

March 24-26, 2023. 39th Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society in Natchitoches, LA. Spend a weekend in Louisiana's original French Colony, established in 1714, and the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. Visit historic Creole sites, homes, and gardens along the Cane River, and the charming town made famous by the 1989 film "Steel Magnolias." The Sunday tour highlights a visit to Briarwood Nature Preserve, the birthplace and home of Caroline Dormon—world-renowned naturalist, author, artist, and the first woman to be hired in the US Forest Service. Visit the SGHS website for updates and look for registration details in January 2023.

May 12-13, 2023. Call For Papers: "Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic World: Landscape Histories of the African Diaspora," Dumbarton Oaks Plant Humanities Conference, Washington, DC. This symposium on the landscape histories of the African diaspora aims to convene scholars, curators, and other cultural custodians conversant in Black Atlantic histories. Additional information is forthcoming. Visit: doaks.org

Susan Haltom Awarded Certificate of Merit

By Randy Harelson, SGHS President

Susan Haltom of Ridgeland, Mississippi, is well known for her work on the restoration and maintenance of Eudora Welty's garden in Jackson. With Jane Roy Brown, Susan is the author of *One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Homeplace* (University Press of Mississippi, 2011). Susan's mother-in-law Glenn Haltom was a founding SGHS board member and Susan joined the Society and attended her first annual meeting in 1991.

Susan served as president of the Southern Garden History Society 2016 through 2018. Working with former and current administrators Virginia Hart and Rebecca Hodson, treasurer Gail Griffin, and former president Jeff Lewis. Susan completed the formidable task of writing *Policies and Procedures*, a guide to the by-laws and workings of the Society and its many committees and projects. "For this," said Jeff Lewis, "she not only deserves the Certificate of Merit, but

also the enduring gratitude of the Society, especially its officers and directors."

At this year's annual meeting she was warmly awarded the Certificate of Merit for her many years of service and accomplishment. Jessica Russell, executive director of the Eudora Welty House and Garden, accepted the award on Susan's behalf.



Susan Haltom holds her Certificate of Merit.

Photo by Jim Haltom

SGHS Annual Meeting Returned... (continued from page 1)

historic landscape. After a hearty breakfast, participants made their way to the Alexandria wharf to take The Cherry Blossom paddle wheeler, down the Potomac River. The two-hour journey was graced with plenty of sunshine, encouraging many conversations. Disembarking at Mount Vernon, Society members toured the four-acre Farm site learning about Washington's innovative farming practices.

After everyone strolled to the Museum and Education Center, Jack Gary, director of archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg, explored the "long and assiduous endeavors" to reveal the archaeological remains of John Custis' Williamsburg property. Gary discussed the archaeological findings at the Custis site and how that information can be used to interpret the seemingly lost history of this site and others. Dean Norton followed with a reflection on his fifty years at Mount Vernon. Norton recalled stories beginning with his early career, sharing professional and personal life milestones, and weaving

in stories from past Society meetings. Entertained and primed to find our own experience, the attendees were released to explore the gardens. Society members were greeted with a bountiful mix of flowering and fragrant bulbs, annuals, perennials, and shrubs in the formal Upper Garden. In the Lower Garden, vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees continue to be grown just as Martha Washington intended. Gathering under the shade of mature trees on the Bowling Green, and near an enormous old boxwood planted during the Washingtons' time, Dean Norton gave context to the overall design of the landscape and discussed considerations for maintaining that original vision.

With other visitors gone for the day, Society members were privileged with intimate tours of the mansion and supporting buildings, and the difficult choice of whether to partake in a cocktail hour near the east veranda

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Photo by Perry Mathewes

Touring the garden restoration at George Mason's Gunston Hall.

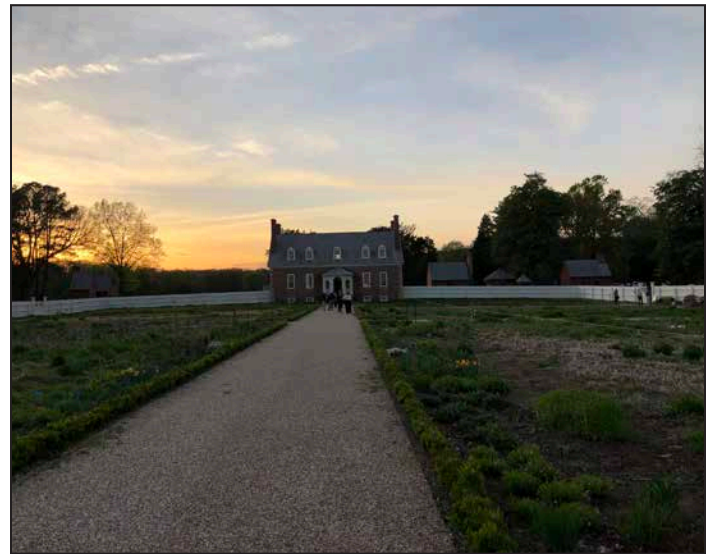


Photo by Carter Hulinsky

Gunston Hall at sunset.



Photo by Greg Grant

Boarding the Cherry Blossom paddle wheeler.

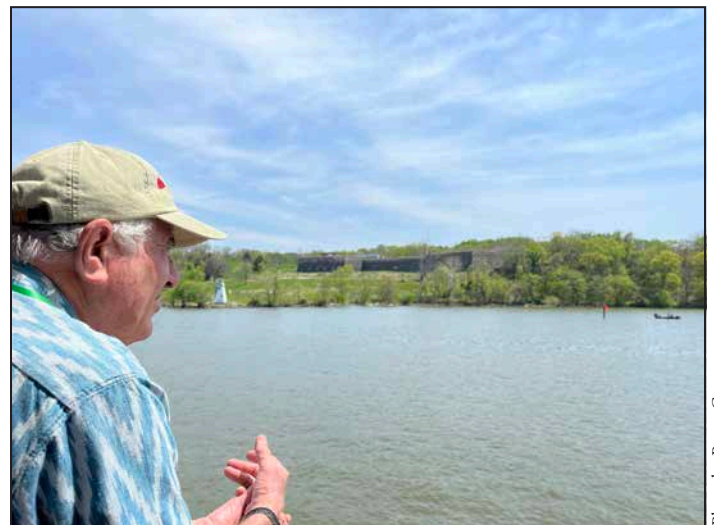


Photo by Peggy Cornett

Speaker Peter del Tredici viewing the banks of the Potomac River.

SGHS Annual Meeting Returned... *(continued from page 3)*

or ascend in the hot air balloon first. As the evening progressed, members gathered on the east lawn to share memories, libations, and savories with sweeping views across the Potomac. With the sun setting, the group migrated to the Ford Orientation Center for dinner. The

evening ended with acknowledgments and thanks to meeting organizers and exiting president, Perry Mathewes. New president, Randy Harelson, gave parting words and encouraged members to attend next year's annual meeting in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

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Photo by Peggy Cornett

Dean Norton with Magnolia Associate Editor Staci Catron on the Cherry Blossom.



Photo by Perry Mathewes

Mount Vernon's Upper Garden and greenhouse with incoming SGHS Vice-President Derek Wade.

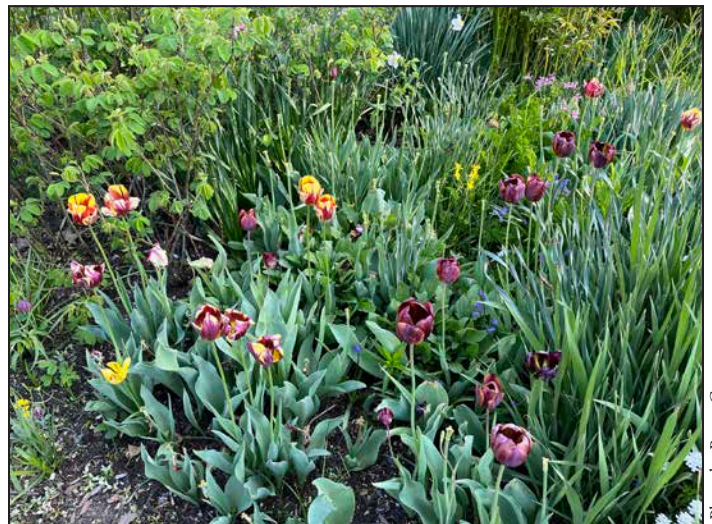


Photo by Peggy Cornett

Historic tulips in Mount Vernon's flower gardens.



Photo by Peggy Cornett

Wayne Amos and incoming SGHS President Randy Harelson at the evening reception.



Photo by Greg Grant

Views of the Potomac River from Mount Vernon's East Front.



Photo by Greg Grant

Spring vegetables in Mount Vernon's Lower Garden.



Selfie by Sam Lee

Sam and Nori Lee enjoying their first SGHS annual meeting.



Photo by Jeff Abt

Greg Grant hugging one of Mount Vernon's original Tulip Poplars (circa 1785).



Photo by Perry Mathewes

Hot air balloon through Mount Vernon's arched walkway.



Photo by Sam and Nori Lee

The closing dinner at the Ford Orientation Center.



Photo by Perry Mathewes

Reception on the East Front lawn. Restoration work is taking place on the mansion's two-story grand façade facing the Potomac River. The row of Windsor chairs was moved from the piazza to the lawn to accommodate the reception.

SGHS Annual Meeting Returned... (continued from page 5)

On Sunday two-thirds of the meeting attendees stayed on for garden tours of Old Alexandria. Comfortable buses with freshly washed windows carried members to beautiful parts of town, including Green Spring Gardens with a lovely historic house, a garden designed by Beatrix Farrand, and twenty other themed gardens. The tour progressed to five private gardens generously opened by the Abramsons, Barthellos, Reynolds, Talleys, and with a special visit to the log cabin guest house of antiquarian and author Oscar Fitzgerald. Lunch was served al fresco at the Lee Fendall House Museum under the shade of fine old trees. The delicious picnic was followed by homemade ice cream made by Dean Norton's daughter. In the afternoon members wandered the streets of Old Town Alexandria, Duke, South Fairfax, and South Lee, to see the gardens of Maria Hopper, Lucy Rhame, Bud Adams, Patricia Kelmar, and Hannah Cox. Ms. Cox's large white tulips were perfect (visitors asked how she could time their blooming so exactly) and throughout the afternoon tree peonies with their huge, extravagant flowers gave pause and delight to everyone. Thanks to all who prepared and shared their gardens with such fine Southern hospitality.



Photo by Carter Hulinsky

Perfect white tulips in Hannah Cox's garden.

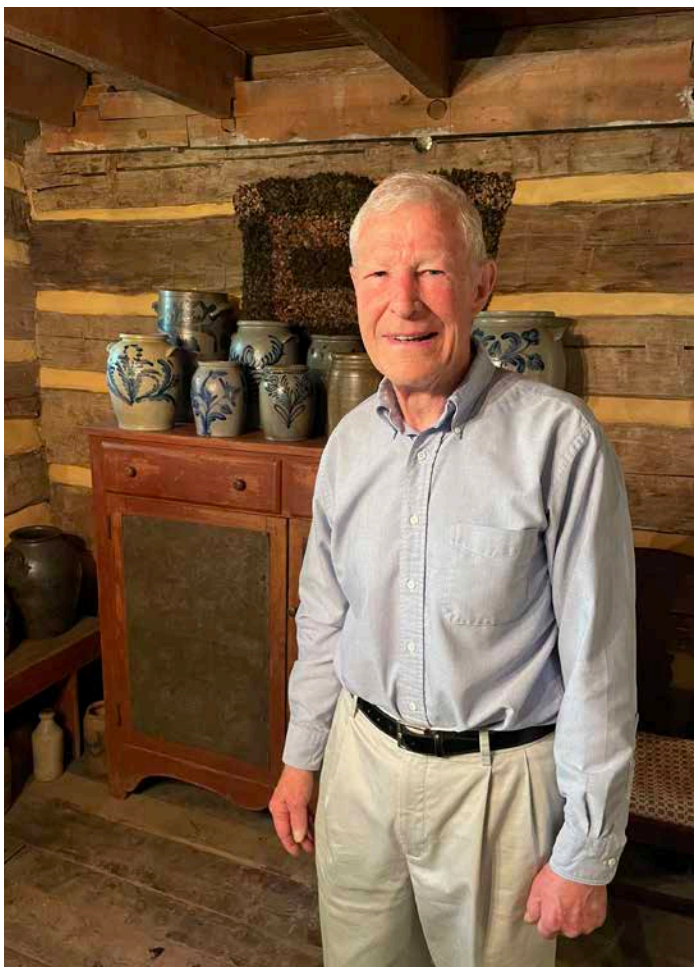


Photo by Randy Hareison

Oscar Fitzgerald in his log cabin.



Photo by Randy Hareison

Diane and Roland Reynolds opened their gardens for the Sunday optional tour.

Spring 2022 Southern Garden History Society Board Meeting

By Adam Martin, Atlanta, Georgia

The Society's board of directors convened in Alexandria on April 21, 2022, to enjoy dinner and fellowship in the garden of the Lee Fendall House Museum and Garden. This was the first-time board members have gathered in person in over two years. The board met the following morning at the Sheraton Suites Old Town to review Society business. Treasurer Gail Griffin reported good news on the overall health of the organizational finances. This is despite slipping membership numbers, as discussed by Rebecca Hodson. Membership numbers have decreased annually since 2018, but through a focused renewal campaign this year, that trend has been reversed. Brochures have been updated and are available to aid in encouraging new members to join. The board would like to thank dedicated members for renewing at higher membership levels to support the Society through the pandemic.

The board previously approved an expansion of the scholarship program to three annually. They include the Undergraduate Scholarship, the James R. Cothran Graduate Fellowship, and the Young Professional Grant. Brianna Nalley, a 4th-year student majoring in landscape architecture at Clemson University, received the Undergraduate Scholarship. The recipient of the Cothran Graduate Fellowship was Keeli Windham, a student working toward a graduate degree and Certificate in Cultural Landscape Conservation in the College of Environment + Design at the University of Georgia. An

unprecedented three Young Professional Grants were awarded this year. Jody Wilkin and Jessica Russell were selected to receive the grant in 2020, and Kendall Shaw was to receive the Undergraduate Scholarship, also in 2020. Since the meeting was canceled, no stipends were paid. All three were encouraged to reapply. Thanks to generous contributions from members, all three were awarded the grant to attend this momentous meeting.

This year the Certificate of Merit was awarded to Susan Haltom (see pg. 2) and Ken McFarland was awarded the Flora Ann Bynum Medal (see pg. 15).

President Perry Mathewes presided over his first in-person meeting in two years. He guided the Society through the pandemic's uncertainty and still promoted growth to remain relevant even when meeting in person was impossible. Randy Harelson stepped up to the position of president along with Derek Wade serving as vice president. Gail Griffin and Susan Epstein both remain in their positions as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

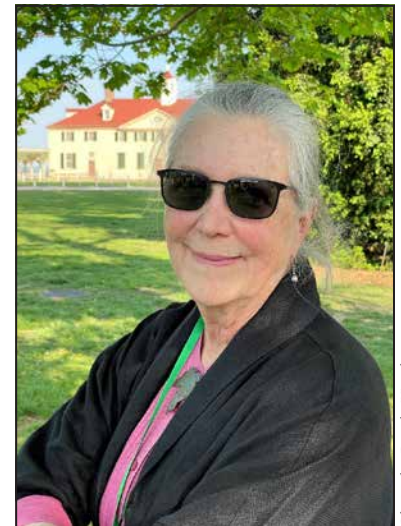


Photo by Randy Harelson

SGHS Treasurer Gail Griffin at Mount Vernon.



Photo by Chris Morash

Peggy Cornett and Bill Welch at the SGHS board member buffet in the Lee Fendall House Museum Garden.



Photo by Barbara Adkins

Keeli Windham, recipient of the Cothran Graduate Fellowship, onboard the Cherry Blossom.

Virginia State Historical Highway Marker honors Carl Porter Cato in Lynchburg

By Jane Baber White, Lynchburg, Virginia

Since retiring as executive director of the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, I have enjoyed proposing multiple Virginia Historical Highway Markers in our community; numbering at least thirty over fifteen-years. Their purpose is to educate, not just to honor a person or a place. To be eligible, the period of significance must have occurred at least fifty years ago, and the importance must be regional, statewide, or national, not just local. Once completed, a public unveiling program and event must be held.

The marker for nationally recognized rosarian Carl Porter Cato (1913-1996) is the first in Lynchburg to honor a horticulturist and rosarian. I first met Carl Cato in 1982 during the restoration of Lynchburg's Harlem Renaissance Poet Anne Spencer's home and garden at 1313 Pierce Street, when we needed help identifying the roses which had been salvaged from the garden. Cato correctly identified the dormant shrubs by their prickles and stems and, happily, every rose survives to this day, some forty years later! In 1993 I called on him again to look at the surviving roses along the brick wall by the Confederate Section of the Old City Cemetery. Cato determined "there's nothing here but rootstock," and added, "let's plant a history of roses" on this site. He selected the varieties and arranged them in chronological sequence by date of introduction, beginning in 1583 through 1900. The selected roses were donated by Cato's friends at Pickering Nurseries in Ontario, Canada, which closed in 2015. This began an exciting horticultural rebirth at Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery with a revitalization of its nineteenth-century plantings and

the annual Antique Rose Festival and plant sale. The festival, which offers hundreds of rooted rose cuttings for the public, was a dream come true for Cato, whose goal was to save historic rose varieties from extinction.

Many stories were shared at the program celebrating Cato's marker unveiling at the Old City Cemetery's Bicentennial Chapel on April 24, 2022. Roses in his garden were special friends to him, and he frequently prefaced a tour with "Come into my garden, my roses want to meet you!" He shared cuttings with the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, and with his friend, rosarian Claire Martin at the Huntington Botanical Garden in Pasadena, California. Cato also founded the Heritage Roses Group and edited their newsletter. Two of the rare roses he discovered are the spineless Chestnut rose (*Rosa roxburgii*) and Cato's Pink Cluster Noisette. After his death in 1996 many of the roses in his personal garden were left to be rehomed in the Old City Cemetery's rose garden.



Carl Porter Cato.

Courtesy the Cato family

Book Review

The Northwest Gardens of Lord & Schryver, by Valencia Libby. Oregon State University Press, paperback, 256 pages | ISBN-9780870711527 | October 2021. List price \$29.95

The history of Lord & Schryver, the acclaimed partnership of landscape architects Elizabeth Lord (1887-1976) and Edith Schryver (1901-1984), has its point of origin in a steward's fateful seating of the two women

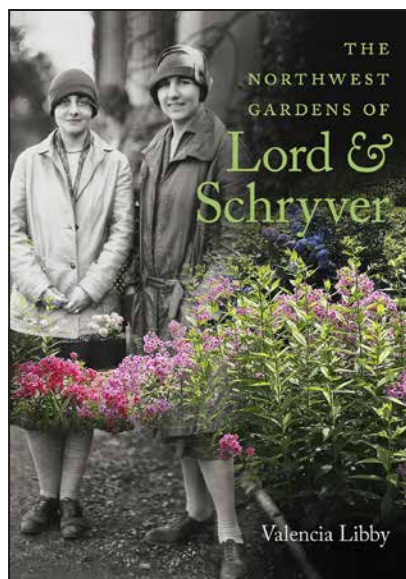
beside each other for dinner, on a June evening in 1927, on board the SS *Andania II*. The Cunard liner, having departed Montreal on 10 June, arrived in Liverpool on the 19th. They were each traveling alone and two of twenty people enrolled in a European Travel Course jointly sponsored by the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women and the Cambridge School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture for Women. The scheduled three-month program focused on visits to

gardens in England, France, and Italy. Elizabeth and Edith extended their travels to Germany and Austria and ended it with visits to gardens in Spain and Majorca.

Returning to the United States, they departed the port of Cherbourg on the SS *Aquitania* on 15 October 1927 and arrived in New York on 21

October. Edith Schryver, then twenty-six, had received her certificate from Lowthorpe in 1923. She returned to her apartment at 21 Beekman Place, the residence and offices of Ellen Biddle Shipman, where she had been employed full-time since completing the three-year program at Lowthorpe. Elizabeth Lord, then a youthful single woman of thirty-nine, was approaching her fortieth birthday a month later (on 12 November); she returned to Groton, Massachusetts, to continue her studies at Lowthorpe, having become a student in 1926. As Valencia Libby recounts in *The Northwest Gardens of Lord & Schryver*, “Thus began a lifetime friendship, a domestic partnership, and the first landscape architecture firm founded by women in the Pacific Northwest.”

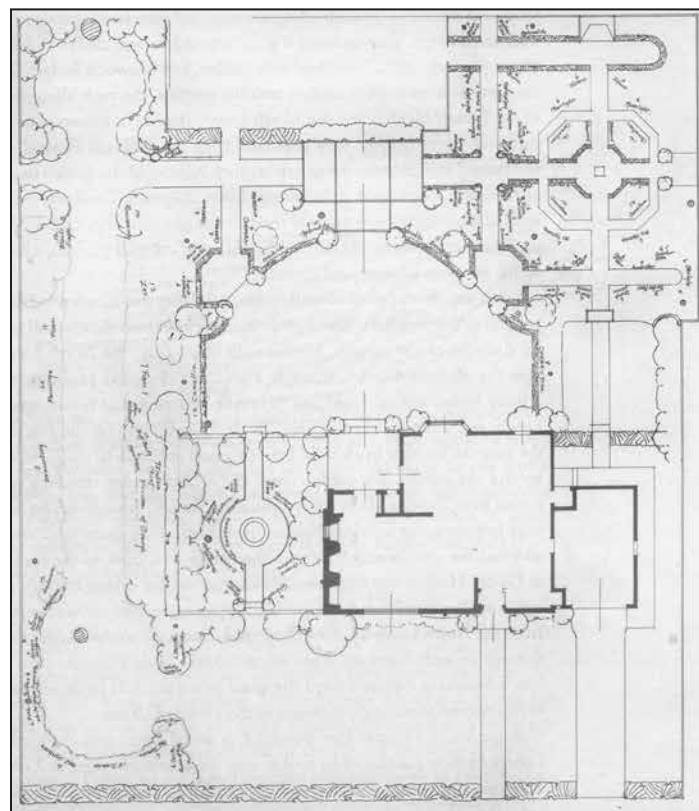
The trip was an epiphany for both women who found a generous, loving companion in each other and a colleague with whom she shared critical appreciations of gardens and landscape design. Over the course of seasons, from fall 1927 into fall 1928, they were frequent correspondents, met on occasion, and resolved to locate in Salem, Oregon, Elizabeth’s birthplace, where they would establish an office, as partners, for the practice of landscape architecture. Departing New York for San Francisco in



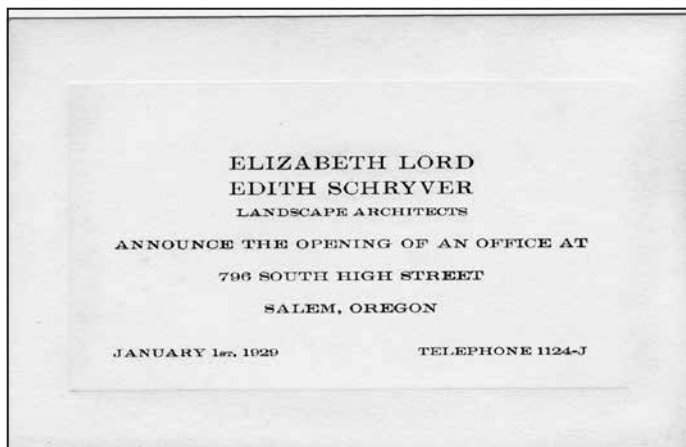
November 1928, they were met in the Bay City by friends of Elizabeth’s with whom they lingered, and then set about the drive north to Salem. Edith’s first travel in Europe had been a revelation and so, too, was her experience of the landscape of the coastal West and the broad Willamette River Valley in which Salem was located. Arriving in Salem on 13 December, they enjoyed the hospitality of Elizabeth’s friends while readying the Lord house at 796 South High Street as their residence and the offices of their practice. They also ordered elegant cards announcing the launch of their practice on 1 January 1929. That very day, in a letter to a prospective client, Mrs. _____ Johnson, Elizabeth Lord wrote: “We have just arrived in Salem, which is my old home, and we intend to make this city our headquarters. . . . We are both enthusiastic over the great advantages which the Northwest has to offer in this profession, as the climate and the varied plant material are so favorable to the development of gardens which could be as beautiful and interesting as the older established ones in other parts of the country.”

The decision to settle their office in Salem enabled the partnership to benefit from Elizabeth Lord’s status in the city just as their association was a successful melding of complementing skills, training, expertise, and background. Born in Salem on 12 November 1887, Elizabeth Blodget Lord was the daughter of William Paine Lord (1838-1911), a native of Dover, Delaware, and Juliet Montague

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Bulb Planting—1938-39, Gaiety Hollow. Courtesy University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives, Coll 098, Lord & Schryver Architectural Records.



Lord and Schryver's business announcement (1929).

Courtesy Lord & Schryver Conservancy, Anne M. Kingery Library.

Book Review... (continued from page 9)

Lord (1844-1924), a native of Lenox, Massachusetts. At the time of her birth and that of her two older brothers, Mr. Lord was a sitting justice of the Oregon Supreme Court (1880-1894). He served as the ninth governor of Oregon, 1895-1899, and next as the United States Minister to Argentina from 1900 into 1903, during which period Elizabeth and members of his family resided in Buenos Aires for a time. She graduated from St. Helen's Hall in Portland in 1904.

With Mr. Lord's death in 1911, and following a custom of her class, Elizabeth became her mother's companion and joined her in social, cultural, and civic activities, travels, and, most importantly to her career, in the family garden and with activities of the Salem Floral Society. Founded in 1915 by Mrs. Lord, and later (now) known as the Salem Garden Club, it was the first garden club in Oregon. Two photographs of the Lord family's luxuriant garden on South High Street, published in *House & Garden* in July 1924, and a third view of the near-same date appear in these pages. Juliet Montague Lord died on 5 July 1924. Income from her inheritance allowed Elizabeth Lord the opportunity for extensive traveling and to follow other interests. In 1925, having decided to pursue a career in landscape architecture and after

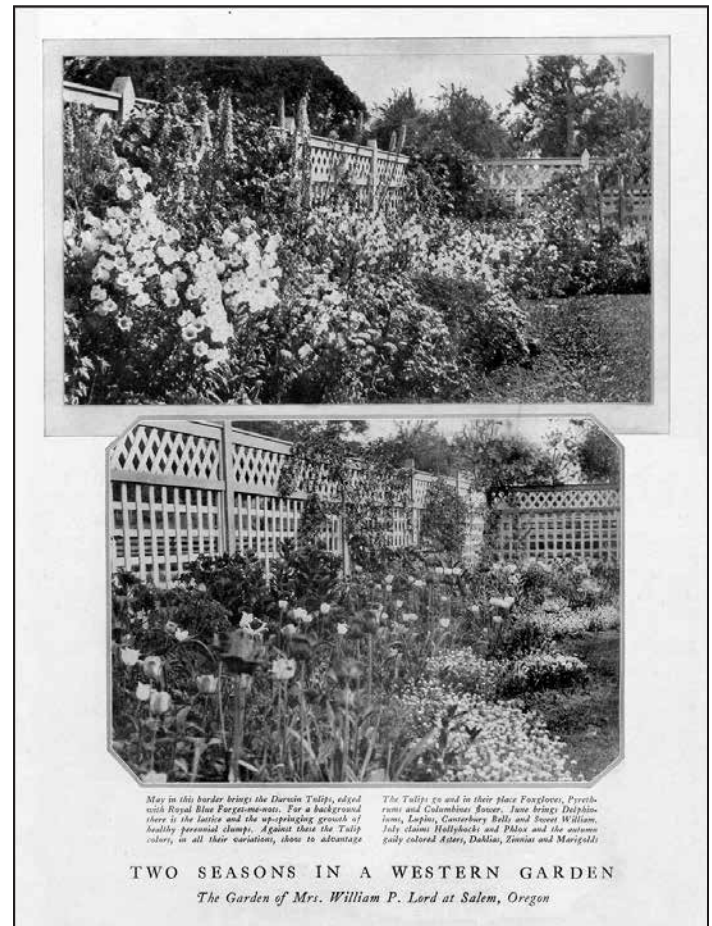
consultation with Florence Holmes Gerke of Portland, she applied to the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women. As now known Florence Holmes Gerke (1896-1964), a graduate of Oregon Agricultural College's landscape gardening program, was perhaps the first female landscape architect to have an office in Oregon. Elizabeth Lord had completed a year's study at Lowthorpe when she met Edith Schryver in June 1927.

Born in Kingston, Ulster County, New York, on 20 March 1901, and thus Elizabeth's junior by thirteen years, Edith Eleanor Schryver was the daughter of George J. Schryver (1872-1955) and Eleanor Young Schryver (1871-1920) and a descendant of Hudson River families in both lines. George Schryver, a restaurant manager in Edith's childhood, was enterprising, and made the most of his advantages in Kingston and changes in American life in the opening decades of the twentieth century. His successes improved the financial and social circumstances of his family, including a favorable change of residence in Kingston from Rail Road Avenue, and enabled Edith to study art at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn after completing her studies in the Kingston schools. Apparently concurrent with successfully completing



Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver at Gaiety Hollow (1947).

Courtesy Capitol Journal. Jesten-Miller Studio photo.



"The Garden of Mrs. William P. Lord at Salem, Oregon," *House & Garden* magazine (July 1924).

Courtesy Lord & Schryver Conservancy, Anne M. Kingery Library.

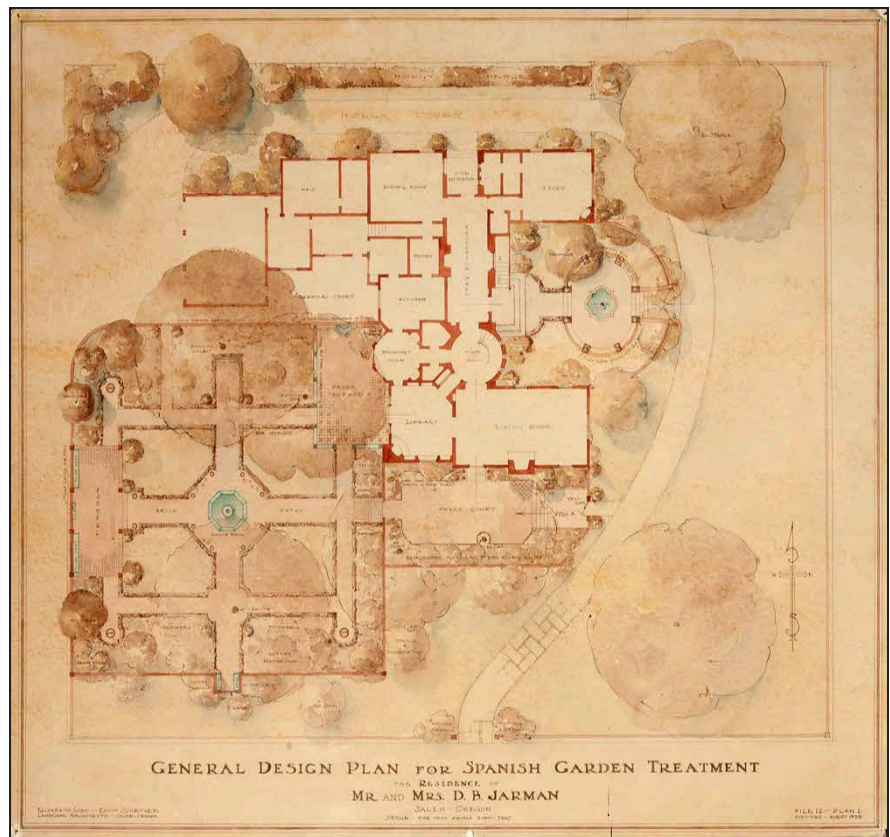
courses at Pratt during the 1919-1920 academic year, she made the decision to apply to Lowthorpe School for the following year. Edith was a student at Lowthorpe when her mother died on 6 November 1920. While enrolled at Lowthorpe she also had part-time work in the offices of Harold Hill Blossom (1879-1935), Elizabeth Greenleaf Pattee (1893-1991), and Elizabeth Leonard Strang (1886-1948), landscape architects who taught at Lowthorpe, of whom Mrs. Strang proved the most influential during her study and in her subsequent professional life.

For the summer of 1922 Edith Schryver accepted an internship in the office of Ellen Biddle Shipman, located at Brook Place in Plainfield, New Hampshire, close on Cornish where Mrs. Shipman had been a member of its celebrated colony of artists, architects, and writers since the 1890s. Edith's capability and competent, comfortable engagement with the scale of projects in Shipman's practice proved pivotal, as did the rapport she developed with the accomplished designer and plantswoman, then aged fifty-one and enjoying wide acclaim. Ellen Shipman appreciated the appealing artistry of Edith's draftsmanship.

With the completion of her studies at Lowthorpe, Edith Schryver was asked by Mrs. Shipman to join her office, now relocated to 21 Beekman Place in New York City. The recently-acquired five-story brick Georgian townhouse was refitted by the firm of (A. W.) Butler & (Henry) Corse to provide a residence for Mrs. Shipman, offices and a drafting studio for her professional practice, and two apartments. These elegant premises, convenient to the clientele Shipman had cultivated through her career, became Edith's place of employment and her residence, in one of the two apartments. Each summer Ellen Shipman would relocate her practice to Brook Place for the season, moves which allowed Edith to further enjoy Cornish. Valencia Libby's opening accounts of Elizabeth and Edith's early years, their education at Lowthorpe and Edith's work in Shipman's office, a valuable education in itself, are fascinating, if all too short. They set the stage for events of the summer of 1927 and the success Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver would enjoy in the storied partnerships of their personal and professional lives.



The partnership of Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver, launched on 1 January 1929 and continued to 1969, ever



"General Design Plan for Spanish Garden Treatment, the Residence of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Jarman," Salem, Oregon (1929)

benefitted from the several advantages each brought to the practice, together with their combined experience of five years at Lowthorpe. Elizabeth Lord's self-assurance, reflecting the presence and prominence of her family in Salem for a half-century and their many friendships, proved important as did the blessing that Ellen Biddle Shipman bestowed on Edith when she left her employ. She allowed her talented, departing draftsman to take with her twenty-five prints of designs she and other had drawn for office projects, including Edith's splendid sketch plan for the gardens on the Brookline estate of Mrs. Henry Vose (Emery Holden) Greenough (1879-1953). Mrs. Shipman also recommended the new firm to Richard D. Merrill and his wife, former clients for whom she had renewed the gardens originally designed by Charles Platt, the architect of the Merrill's mansion in Seattle. The firm's first important commission, the Spanish gardens for the new residence of Daniel B. Jarman and his wife, had its origin in a letter Miss Lord wrote to Mr. Jarman on 6 March 1929, recounting their visit to gardens in Spain and Edith's employment in the Shipman office where "Much fine work has gone through her hands, gardens of all types including Spanish and Italian." Mrs. Jarman's response, in a letter of 11 March, was positive. Edith Schryver's earlier letter to Mrs. Richard D. (Eula) Merrill of 1 January 1929 resulted in their commission to further revise the Merrill gardens in 1929, their second major commission and an

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Book Review... (continued from page 11)

association that continued into the 1940s.

Lord & Schryver's commission to create a large landscaped space for social gatherings on the South Mission Street estate of Alice Brown Powell (1882-1971), a final important domestic garden project of 1929, produced "The Great Room Garden" on the grounds of her Victorian mansion, which Mrs. Powell named Deepwood in 1935. It was the first of a series of gardens and design consultations at Deepwood, now an historic house museum and estate garden park, that continued to 1962.

Ms. Libby well describes the quickly evolved roles of the partners.

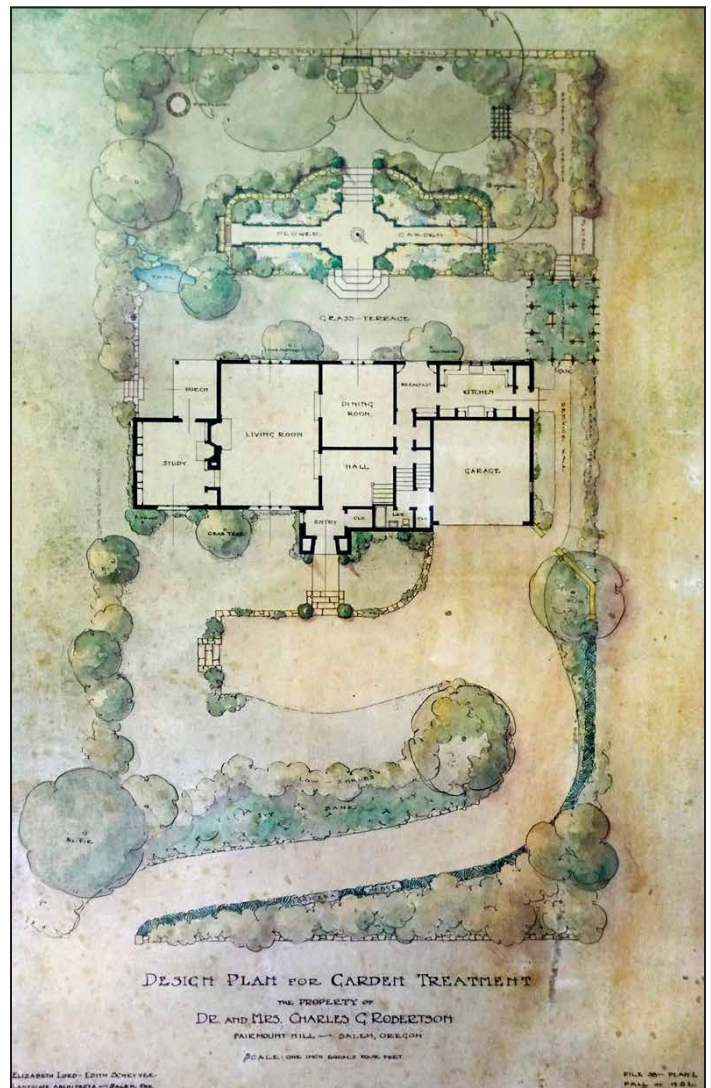
"By 1930, they had organized their business into a flexible division of labor. Schryver, with her superior artistic and engineering skills, carried out the site analysis and design, drafted the plans, and oversaw construction in the field. Her beautiful drawings were works of art. Despite her diminutive size, Schryver was very good at directing workmen and making them do things properly. . . Lord, using her superior knowledge of gardening in the Northwest, was the plant expert. She designed the planting plans and the seasonal flower schemes that many of their clients required. She, too, was in the field to oversee installations. In addition, Lord ran the office and took care of their correspondence, billing, plant orders, and the like."

The partnership's 1931 design of a garden and grounds for a new house designed by Salem architect Clarence Louis Smith (1894-1950) for Charles G. and Mildred Robertson is last in the important series of early-career gardens treated by Valencia Libby which antedates the worsening depth of the Great Depression and a lull in work for Lord & Schryver. A view of its garden terraces appears as a full-page illustration in the entry for Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver in *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (2000) but misidentified as the "Robinson garden."

The extended treatment given to Lord and Schryver's Gaiety Hollow, in text, plans, black and white documentary photographs, a ca. 1935 color glass slide view, and recent color photography is a sure reflection of the importance the home property held in their personal and professional lives. The house designed by Clarence Louis Smith, one-and-a-half stories in height and a charming hybrid of Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts,

and Period Cottage influences, was both their residence and professional office and studio. Facing north, and built in 1932 on the east back "half" of the lot on which the Lord family's late-Victorian house stood, the new house projected a contemporary, yet appealing, traditional image. The gardens, likewise, altogether of their time, embodied the design principles, organizational structure, patterns of movement, character, hardscape features, and plant materials that characterized their work and its attraction to potential clients. In short, the gardens at Gaiety Hollow were the best illustration of Lord & Schryver's talents and an ideal sequence of garden rooms in which to consult with clients. The early decision to expand the grounds on the west and create the grass-covered West Allee, carrying the depth of the lot between aged, symmetrically paired Garry oaks (*Quercus garryana*), was a stroke of genius that gives the gardens, on a still small lot, a brilliance they enjoy to the present.

With residential gardens and landscapes comprising



"Design Plan for Garden Treatment, The Property of Dr. and Mrs. Charles G. Robertson," Salem, Oregon (fall 1931)

Courtesy Lord & Schryver Conservancy.

the majority of Lord & Schryver's commissions, Valencia Libby rightly provides a fine reading of another highly-important work of the 1930s, the small Lake Oswego estate of Gerald Edwin (1882-1953) and Mary Livingstone (1888-1972) Beebe. The remarkably handsome gardens and landscaped grounds of the four-acre property, with a breathtaking view of Mt. Hood, owed to the relationship Elizabeth and Edith enjoyed with Mrs. Beebe, a fellow member of the Portland Garden Club and knowledgeable plantswoman, and the early, cooperative role they exercised with the Beebes' architect, Ernest Fanning Tucker (1900-1976). When Edith made her usual first site visit to the property, she was immediately reminded of the Edenic landscape of Cornish, New Hampshire, where the gardens of summer estates enjoyed splendid views in their mountain setting and the presence of Mount Ascutney. Her proposed site for the Voyseysque house was readily accepted by Mr. Tucker, and all was go. Construction began and certain plantings for the garden coincided with its progress, most notably those of the Crabapple Allee, a transcendent garden beautifully captured in a color plate in these pages, along with three additional color views of the Beebe gardens.

Other residential projects were added to Lord & Schryver's client list in the 1930s and 1940s (and later) up to 1949 when the partners began work on the terraced gardens of Robert Eugene Avison (1914-1979) and his wife in Portland. Margaret Elizabeth Scheve Avison (1912-2009) remained a faithful steward of her property, and late in a long life she is said to have remarked to appreciative visitors "I tried to keep it just the way they designed it."

Readers of *The Northwest Gardens of Lord & Schryver* will learn of the firm's important public park and institutional projects, including the design of grounds for schools and government buildings. Elizabeth Lord's service on Oregon's Capitol Planning Commission, from 1952 to 1963, coupled her professional skills with a lifelong commitment to the cultural life of her native state.

Lord & Schryver's many contributions to Bush's Pasture Park and Deepwood Museum & Gardens, originally private estates, both fronting on Mission Street SE, as does Gaiety Hollow, had their origin in Elizabeth and Edith's work for their longtime residents. Miss Sally Bush (1860-1946), Elizabeth's friend since childhood, lived her eighty-six years in the grand Italianate house her father purchased in 1860. She added "a very fine collection of ornamental trees, mostly crabapples and cherries" on the recommendation of Lord & Schryver to its grounds in the early 1930s. In about 1960 they designed a rose garden for the Mae Tartar Collection of Old Roses, the second of two rose gardens in Bush's Pasture Park maintained to the present. The gardens Lord and Schryver designed for their friend, Alice Brown Powell (1882-1971), at Deepwood have been noted earlier herein.

Ever a champion of Oregon's natural beauty, Elizabeth Lord and her partner also found ways to share their knowledge of design and advocate for good gardening by the state's many residents and homeowners who were never likely to become clients. Their first important effort was in response to the offer in February 1932 by Edward M. Miller, editor of Portland's *Sunday Oregonian*, to publish a series of twelve articles of their choice. Their response was to prepare nine articles, in their words, "describing the essentials of landscape architecture for the average-sized city home." The first article appeared in the issue of 6 March 1932 and continued, each Sunday in March and April, to the appearance "Garden's Charm Heightened by Appropriate Features" on 1 May. Their practical advice was well received. The articles were published in booklet-form in 2003 by the Lord & Schryver Conservancy as *Essentials of Landscape Architecture*.

In 1938 Lord and Schryver joined with William Dorr Legg (1904-1994), a professor of landscape architecture at Oregon State College, to present a series of seven radio programs, "Planning and Planting the Home Grounds," aired by the college's station, KOAC, as episodes of its

(continued on page 14)



Courtesy Valencia Libby.

Crabapple Allee in the Garden of Gerald and Mary Beebe, Lake Oswego, Oregon (2018).



Courtesy Mark Akimoff.

Flower Garden, Gaiety Hollow, as seen from a second story window of the residence. (2020)

Book Review... (continued from page 13)

popular *Home Garden Hour*. They would make other presentations in the 1940s and early 1950s.

On the professional side Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver, Mr. Legg, Florence Holmes Gerke, and Walter Henry Gerke were among the founding members of the Oregon Society of Landscape Architects in 1940. Elizabeth and Edith hosted a subsequent organizational meeting of the society at Gaiety Hollow on 24 April 1941 at which Edith was elected OSLA's secretary-treasurer. In 1943 Edith Schryver was engaged as a part-time instructor on the landscape architecture faculty at Oregon State College and taught courses for three successive academic years (1943-1946).

As recounted by Valencia Libby in "Final Years," the inevitabilities of aging, notably compromises to one's health and mobility, prompted Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver to close their business in 1969. Doing so, it became one of the two major West Coast female partnerships in landscape architecture practice to end in the 1960s. Florence Yoch (1890-1972), having worked alone since 1918, hired Lucille Council (1898-1964) as an apprentice in 1921. They formed a domestic partnership. In 1925 the two women created a professional partnership, Yoch & Council, that continued to Miss Council's death in 1964. (James J. Yoch's *Landscaping the American Dream: The Gardens and Film Sets of Florence Yoch, 1890-1972* is a study of the partnership's gardens and landscapes and those Miss Yoch produced before and after their association.)

Elizabeth Lord died on 9 October 1976. Her remains found rest near those of her parents in Mount Crest Abbey Mausoleum, Salem. As the owner of Gaiety Hollow, she bequeathed a life estate in the house and gardens to Edith Schryver, along with other bequests. Edith continued her engagement with the several interests they had shared, including the Salem Art Association and the Bush House Museum. Edith Schryver died on 20 May 1984. Her body was taken back to Kingston and interred in the Wiltwyck Cemetery where her name is inscribed below those of her father, mother, and step-mother on a single gravestone. David Cushing Duniway (1912-1993), long a close friend and the first Oregon State Archivist, spoke at the memorial services of both women at Gaiety Hollow.

A broad, continuing appreciation for the work of Lord & Schryver and a like admiration for Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver as individuals has preserved their legacy. The partnership's professional papers, comprising plans and drawings, correspondence, office and subject files, photographs, and virtually all of the surviving materials and records of their practice, were donated to the University of Oregon and now held in its Special Collections and University Archives. In 1985 Gaiety Hollow was acquired by Vincent W. Strand (1931-2011)

and his wife who exercised a careful, knowledgeable stewardship of the house and gardens. The Lord & Schryver Conservancy purchased Gaiety Hollow in 2015.

A series of scholars and historians have addressed the Lord & Schryver partnership. In 1992 Laura White completed "Transplanted Traditions: The Pacific Northwest Gardens of Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver," her master's thesis at the University of Oregon. Kenneth Ivan Helphand (b. 1946), professor of landscape architecture at the University of Oregon, prepared accounts of the women and their partnership that were published in *Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography* (1993) and *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (2000). Liz Deck was the author of a second master's thesis on Lord & Schryver at the University of Oregon in 2005. That same year the Lord & Schryver Conservancy gained its 501(c)(3) status. This association of historians, enthusiasts, and gardeners had earlier sought the advice of Bill Noble, then director of preservation at The Garden Conservancy. Memories of his visit to Gaiety Hollow in 2002 inform his fine Foreword to this book. In 2010 the Lord & Schryver Conservancy published *Influences Find Expression*, a study of the partnership. A quartet of consultants prepared a cultural landscape report on Gaiety Hollow in 2012. Next, Ross Sutherland and Diana Painter prepared the registration form for Gaiety Hollow, which was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 2014 for its statewide significance. The Lord & Schryver List of Works, compiled by Laura White, and a part of her 1992 thesis, was included in the nomination as Additional Documentation. The list comprises 168 works dated between 1929 and 1958 and 37 undated works, a total of 205.

Now, at the end of this reading and my review, and having prepared the registration form for the Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden, Charlotte, North Carolina, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006 for its national significance, I believe a like level of significance could have been advanced for Gaiety Hollow, at once the residence, office, studio, and home gardens of this remarkable, pioneering female partnership in the Pacific Northwest. With her writing of *The Northwest Gardens of Lord & Schryver*, Valencia Libby has made a valuable contribution to American garden and landscape history, a monograph that will surely lead readers to a larger, deserved appreciation of the partnership and the many fine gardens and landscapes Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver created.

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Vale, North Carolina

Ken McFarland Receives Flora Ann Bynum Medal

By Peggy Cornett, *Magnolia* Editor

The Southern Garden History Society's highest award, the Flora Ann Bynum Medal, was presented to Kenneth M. McFarland at the Society's annual meeting at Mount Vernon, April 22, 2022. Ken has rendered outstanding service to the Society and to the entire field of Southern garden and landscape history. For over three decades he has served as co-editor of *Magnolia*, for which he has authored countless articles, including substantive lead articles and conference reviews.

For many years Ken served alongside Flora Ann Bynum on the planning committee for the Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference, once held biennially in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Ken edited and saw to publication three proceedings for the 1995, 1997, and 2001 conferences. Ken continued to contribute to this highly respected conference even after he moved from North Carolina to Fredericksburg, Virginia, married Beate Jensen, and became director of preservation and education at Stratford Hall Plantation, the home of the Lees of Virginia. In 2003 Ken played a major role conceiving and organizing the 14th biennial RSGL Conference, "A Genius and his Legacy: Frederick Law Olmsted in the South," in which he presented on "The Travels of Frederick Law Olmsted." That same year Ken also received an American Association for State and Local History's Award of Merit for his book, *The Architecture of Warren County, North Carolina, 1770s to 1860s*. The AASLH's Annual Awards Program is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state, and regional history.

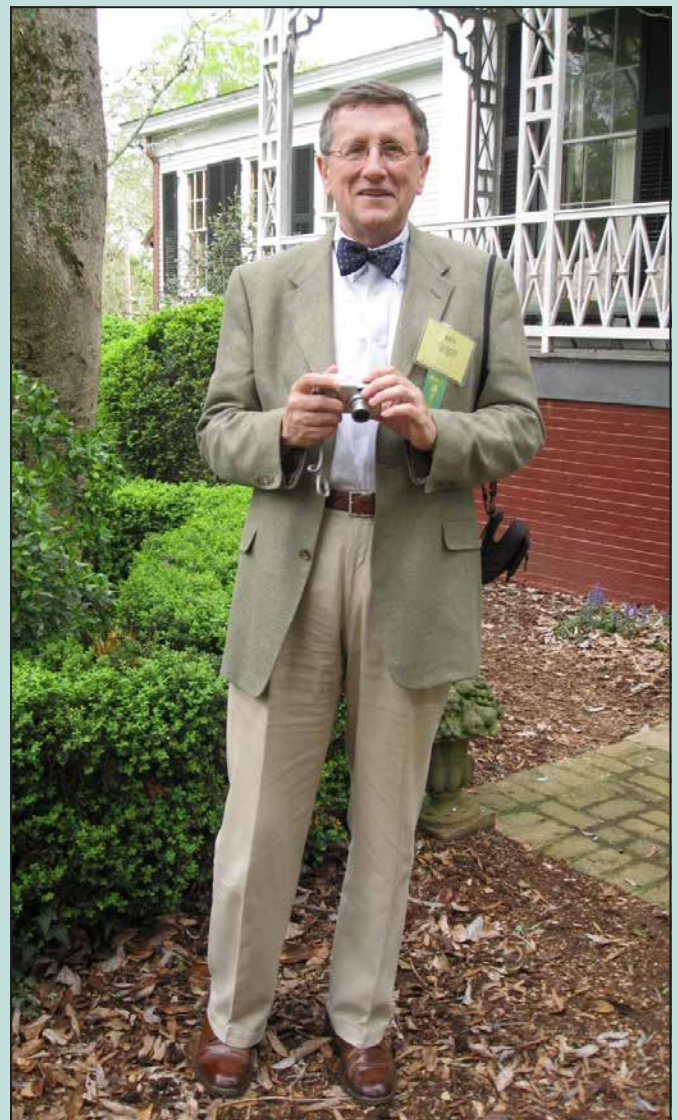
During the early 2000s he served as vice-president and president of SGHS. He and his wife Beate coordinated and hosted the 2005 SGHS annual meeting: "Colonial Meets Revival: Fredericksburg and the Northern Neck of Virginia," considered by all accounts one of the Society's finest programs. It was at this meeting that Flora Ann Bynum was presented with the award named in her honor.

As Stratford Hall's Director of Preservation and Education Ken also served as liaison with The Garden Club of Virginia's Restoration Committee, and he helped develop the partnership between Stratford Hall and the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design. This partnership led to the creation of the "Cultural Landscape Laboratory" at Stratford and the

production of a significant CL report for the historic site. During the University of Georgia's partnership Stratford Hall hosted three Cultural Landscape symposia.

As co-editor of *Magnolia* and an honorary SGHS board member Ken continues to be a strong voice and fearless advocate for the Society's role in landscape preservation. Ken challenges us to never lose sight of the Society's mission and to use our resources to raise awareness and promote scholarship of historic gardens, cultural landscapes, and horticultural history across the South.

Ken was not able to attend the annual meeting. In his absence Honorary Board Member Staci Catron accepted the award on his behalf.



Ken McFarland on the walking tour in Madison, Georgia, during the 2008 annual SGHS meeting in Athens.



Southern Garden History Society

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Awards and Scholarships

The *Flora Ann Bynum Medal* honors members who render outstanding service to SGHS. The medal stands uppermost among SGHS awards. Any current, former, or honorary board member may submit nominations.

The *William Lanier Hunt Award* recognizes members, non-members, and/or organizations that have made an exceptional contribution to fields closely aligned with the mission and goals of SGHS. Any SGHS member may submit nominations.

SGHS bestows the title *Honorary Director* (Board of Directors) on individuals who have rendered exceptional service and have made significant contributions to SGHS. Any current, former, or honorary board member may submit nominations.

SGHS presents the *Certificate of Merit* to a member or non-member whose work (a singular project or collective effort) advances the mission and goals of SGHS. Any SGHS member may submit nominations.

SGHS provides *Undergraduate Scholarships*, *Graduate Fellowships*, and *Young Professional Grants* for the express purpose of attending the annual meeting. Bona fide junior and senior students enrolled in college and university majors relevant to the mission and goals of SGHS are eligible to apply for scholarships. Graduate students studying in germane fields may apply for fellowships. Young professionals within five years of having graduated and working in related disciplines may apply for grants, as well as older individuals who have made career changes within the last five years. SGHS members are urged to promote awareness of these opportunities.

SGHS posts details, eligibility, and directions for submitting applications on the organization's website: www.southerngardenhistory.org. Those without internet access can receive a copy of this information by mail; contact Rebecca Hodson, SGHS Administrator.

Annual Membership Dues

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

<i>Benefactor</i>	<i>\$500 and above*</i>
<i>Patron</i>	<i>\$250</i>
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<i>Individual</i>	<i>\$40</i>
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*Contact the membership administrator if you would like to pay more than \$500 via credit card. For more membership information, contact:

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Deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of Magnolia is August 31, 2022.

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