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Southern Garden
History Society

"The Laurel Tree of Carolina"
from Mark Catesby, 1731
(MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA)

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Dr. Edgar G. Givhan II, President
Harriet H. Jansma, Vice-President
Flora Ann Bynum, Secretary-Treasurer
William Lanier Hunt, Honorary President

Editor:
Harriet Jansma
900 Lighton Trail
Fayetteville, AR 72701

SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

Associate Editor:
Peggy Newcomb
Monticello, Box 316
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Editor's note:

We are sending this issue to arrive before the annual meeting, which will be held in Savannah, Georgia on May 12 through 14. We hope to see many of you there for the outstanding program that is planned for us.

To assist all members, perhaps especially those who cannot be present this year to learn from our speakers and tours, we have made sources of information in print the theme of this issue. We include announcements and reviews of several new books, and an extensive list of sources for historic seeds and plants, compiled by Scott G. Kunst of Old House Gardens, Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the Seeds and Plant Materials Committee of the Association for Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums. We are grateful to Mr. Kunst and to the Associations Museum for allowing us to provide it to you. The list is printed as an insert to this bulletin, unnumbered, so that members can remove and use it as a separate reference guide.

In a renewed effort to obtain information on activities, projects, and studies in all the states of our region, we also include in this issue a list of our current state editors for Magnolia. Please send information and news about your own activities in garden and landscape history, or about those of others that you know about.

Only by exchanging such information can we all learn how to do what we are doing; by presenting information about restoration and maintenance problems and how they have been solved, you can enable others to learn from your experience. And by telling members where your project is, and what it is, you can bring interested visitors to your community.

CALENDAR

May 12-14, 1989 (Friday afternoon through Sunday evening)
SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY 7th annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

May 18-20, 1989 (Thursday evening through Saturday noon)
MORDECAI GARDEN SYMPOSIUM, Raleigh, North Carolina.
Theme of this year's program is "The Well-Furnished Garden." Members \$65; non-members \$75. Checks should be to Mordecai Square Historical Society, 1 Mimosa St., Raleigh, N. C. 27604.

May 20, 1989 (Saturday)
Symposium on HORTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES: PAST AND PRESENT at Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale, Virginia. Fee, which includes luncheon, is \$35.00. For information telephone (703) 759-5241. Send check for registration by mail to: Fairfax County Park Authority, 3701 Pender Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

May 25, 1989 (Thursday)
CELEBRATION OF ROSES at WILLIAM PACA GARDEN, Annapolis, Maryland. An all-day meeting planned to coincide with the blooming of heritage roses at the Paca Garden, featuring lectures, lunch on the terrace of the William Paca House, horticultural advice, and sale of heritage plants. Write to William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401, or call (301) 267-6656.

October 5-7, 1989 (Thursday afternoon through Saturday morning)
OLD SALEM CONFERENCE on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes," Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Theme of this 7th conference is "Gardening for Pleasure in the South;" the program will begin with an address by Suzanne Turner, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University, and a member of the SGHS board of directors, entitled: "Gardening for Pleasure in the South: A View from Three Centuries." The fee of \$135 includes three meals. For information, write to Landscape Conference Registrar, Old Salem, Inc., Box F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108; or telephone (919) 721-7300.

IN PRINT

American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places, edited by William H. Tishler, ASLA, is an overview of our country's designed places and those who created them. It shows how the field of landscape architecture developed from the fine art of "embellishing grounds by fancy" into a sophisticated science of site and city planning. The paperback volume is available from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. The price of \$10.95 is presently discounted 10%; shipping is \$1.50 for 1 or 2 copies, \$2.50 for 3 to 5 copies, and \$3 for 6 or more copies.

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

Chairman Pro-Tem Francis H. Cabot (Box 222, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516) has announced plans to form the Garden Conservancy, an organization whose purpose is to encourage and facilitate the transition from private to public status of exceptional American gardens, and to encourage the preservation and restoration of important gardens.

Sponsored in its initial phase by the Tides Foundation of San Francisco, the project is being organized on the model of the Trust for Public Land, and will seek members of the public who endorse its goals, particularly those who visit gardens in their own communities and elsewhere and who want to know about gardens in North America open to the public.

Tax-deductible contributions to the organization are possible now under the umbrella of the Tides Foundation, to which checks can be made payable. Declare your interest, seek information, or make a contribution to The Garden Conservancy, Box 219, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516.

IN PRINT

I. The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States, a project of the American Garden and Landscape History Program at Wave Hill, 675 W. 252nd St., Bronx, N.Y. 10471, publishes a Newsletter announcing landscape records available for study in all parts of the United States. More than 3000 correspondents now participate in its exchange of information. Readers may call or write for information on particular topics of study, and all are encouraged to send information for others.

An inquiry in the Catalog's Newsletter for Winter, 1989, follows:

The Memphis, Tennessee parkway system's Overton and Riverside Parks are the subject of study and an exhibition. In 1900, Olmsted Brothers were instrumental in the establishment of the Memphis Park Commission. The actual commission to design the parks went to George E. Kessler in 1901. He worked on this project until 1910. Any information, correspondence, illustrative materials or memorabilia related to the Memphis park system or Kessler is sought for this study and exhibition. Contact: Lisa Thompson, Ritchie Smith Associates, 3355 Poplar Avenue, Suite 200, Memphis, TN 38111, or tel. (901) 458-1136.

II. Once Upon a Windowsill, a history of indoor plants, by Tovah Martin, has been published by Timber Press, 9999 S.W. Wilshire, Portland, OR 97225. The large format book is illustrated with 19th-century engravings. Logee's Book Shop, 141 North St., Danielson, CT 06239, tel. (203) 774-8038, offers autographed copies for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 postage and packing. The book lists appropriate plants for Victorian homes, and provides instructions for growing indoor plants of the Victorian era.

IN PRINT, continued

Fearing Burr's FIELD AND GARDEN VEGETABLES OF AMERICA, reprinted
--a review by Peggy Newcomb, Associate Editor of
Magnolia and Assistant Director of Gardens and
Grounds, Monticello (She is author of Popular
Annals of Eastern North America: 1865-1914.)

After 123 years, Fearing Burr Jr.'s Field and Garden Vegetables of America returns in a long-awaited third edition, beautifully reproduced by the American Botanist, Booksellers. Regarded by experts as the definitive analysis of nineteenth-century vegetable cultivars, this treasured and, heretofore, scarce resource can now become an indispensable addition to the libraries of garden historians and preservationists. Burr's colorfully detailed varietal descriptions are fascinating; and, accompanied by 98 superb botanical renderings by Isaac Sprague, they remain one of the few specific accounts available to aid in the documentation and recreation of early American gardens today.

The book is unique for its ambitious scope and breadth of material. When Burr approached this topic in the early 1860's, America's horticultural literature was already saturated with "how-to" manuals in the garden calendar style, as popularized by Bernard McMahon's The American Gardener's Calendar. However, Burr himself, a seedsman and well-respected authority on horticulture throughout New England, recognized a further need to begin to unravel the already mounting confusion of nomenclature in the seed trade -- a problem compounded by a few unconscionable seed dealers who renamed pirated varieties routinely for their own gain.

In his Hingham, Massachusetts, garden outside Boston, Burr undertook the monumental task of actually collecting and testing thousands of the vegetable cultivars then flooding the market. His efforts to clarify these synonyms are indeed commendable. It is difficult to imagine the overwhelming challenge of paring down 75 types of cabbage lettuce to 32, for example, or determining that 86 broccoli "varieties" were, in actuality, a mere 34! Through his systematic and comprehensive approach, Burr was, in fact, attempting to create an organization for vegetable cultivars to match the level and calibre of fruit classification.

This 1988 edition includes perhaps the greatest statement of its significance in the Preface by Kent Wheatley, Director of the Seed Savers Exchange, and Introduction by Robert Becker, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Cornell University. Each in his own right has contributed immeasurably to the understanding, appreciation, and preservation of heirloom vegetable cultivars. Becker not only presents an illuminating biographical sketch of Burr, but also delves extensively into the horticultural literature and activity of the period. His twentieth-century perspective combines with Burr's exhaustive work to provide a rare window into the nature of garden vegetables in an earlier time.

SOURCE LIST FOR HISTORIC SEEDS AND PLANTS

COMPILED BY SCOTT G. KUNST, OLD HOUSE GARDENS, 536 THIRD ST.,
ANN ARBOR, MI 48103, FEBRUARY 1989

FOR THE SEEDS AND PLANT MATERIALS COMMITTEE, ASSOCIATION FOR LIVING
HISTORY FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL MUSEUMS, c/o ROBERT F. BECKER,
P.O. BOX 52, RUSHVILLE, NY 14544.

Finding period plants is not easy. Modern hybrids are often very different from earlier varieties, and many once-popular plants are no longer widely available. But here are some tips.

1. Know what you are looking for. With jumbled diversity the rule, it is the only way to find what you need. Educate yourself nationally, regionally, and (most importantly) site-specifically.
2. Start with what you have--including "weeds." Every old site has plants waiting to be rediscovered and appreciated. Then look over the fence and down the road. In general, the closer you stay to your site, the more appropriate your plants will be.
3. Ask your site's descendents, neighbors, friends, and long-time local gardeners for seeds or plants. Older forms often persist in family gardens.
4. Collect seeds or plants from abandoned home-sites, cemeteries, and so on--with sensitivity and permission. Old plants are often tenacious.
5. Avoid modern hybrids. Choose open-pollinated varieties, and use origination lists to search for historic cultivars.
6. Choose species, botanical, or wild forms of garden plants. These are often the same as older garden varieties.
7. Save seed. Seed collected from modern plants can revert to less-improved, more old-fashioned forms.
8. Look harder, and ask. Call one more nursery, look beyond all the marigolds--you may be surprised. And demand creates supply.
9. Order by mail. Though almost every nursery carries a few historic items (rarely identified as such), the following sources will be of more help than most--if you know what you are looking for. (And, again, if you don't find something, ask.)
Especially valuable sources are marked with asterisks. A few important organizations are included, too. For other sources, see Barbara J. Barton's monumental and current Gardening By Mail II (Tusker Press, Box 597004, San Francisco, CA 94159, \$18.50 postpaid).

I. GENERAL CATALOGS

W. Atlee Burpee Co.
Warminster, Pa 18974
mainstream, free

Stokes Seeds
PO Box 548
Buffalo, NY 14240
many bedding plants, free

Geo. W. Park Seed Co.
Cokesbury Rd.
Greenwood, SC 29647-0001
mainstream, free

***J.L. Hudson, Seedsman
PO Box 1058
Redwood City, CA 94064
many species, \$1

***Thomas Jefferson Center for
Historic Plants
Monticello/ PO Box 316
Charlottesville, VA 22901
small but growing list, SASE

Comstock, Ferne and Co.
P.O. Box 125
Wethersfield, CT 06109
since 1820, free

Gunnery's Seed & Nursery Co.
2751 Page St.
Yankton, SD 57078
since 1866, free

R.H. Shumway, Seedsman
PO Box 1
Graniteville, SC 29829
since 1870, \$1

Earl May Seed & Nursery Co.
P.O. Box 500
Shenandoah, IA 51603
classic, free

D. Landreth Seed Co.
PO Box 6426
Baltimore, MD 21230
est. 1784, mainly new list, \$2

Abundant Life Seed Fdtn.
PO Box 772
Port Townsend, WA 98368
New Age, \$1

De Giorgi Co.
1529 N. Saddle Creek Rd.
Omaha, NE 68104
\$1

Farmer Seed and Nursery
P.O. Box 129
Faribault, MN 55021
classic, free

Henry Field's Seed & Nursery Co.
407 Sycamore St.
Shenandoah, IA 51602
since 1892, free

J.W. Jung Seed Co.
335 S. High St.
Randolph, WI 53956
classic, free

Heirloom Garden Seeds
PO Box 138
Guerneville, CA 95446
\$2

II. ORNAMENTALS

A. ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, SHRUBS, TREES

Andre Viette Farm and Nursery
Rte. 1, Box 16
Fishersville, VA 22939
perennial plants, \$2

Wayside Gardens
P.O. Box 1
Hodges, SC 29695-0001
plants, many unusual, \$1

Bluestone Perennials
7211 Middle Ridge Rd.
Madison, OH 44057
inexpensive cell-packs, free

White Flower Farm
Rte. 63
Litchfield, CT 06759-0050
perennial plants, \$1

Louisiana Nursery
Rte. 7, Box 43
Opelousas, LA 70570
shrubs, etc. \$2; iris, etc. \$2

Country Garden
Rte. 2, Box 455A
Crivitz, WI 54114
"for cutting," many cultivars, \$1

***The Fragrant Path
PO Box 328
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023
seeds, many old, \$1

Hillier Nurseries
Ampfield House, Ampfield
Romsey, Hants. S05 9PA
England

***Seed Source/ Sharp Plants
Rte. 2, Box 265B
Asheville, NC 28805
Maver's, many species, \$3

Chiltern Seeds
Bortree Stile, Ulverston
Cumbria, England LA12 7PB
extensive, world-wide list, \$3

Canyon Creek Nursery
3527 Dry Creek Rd.
Oroville, CA 95965
perennials, many old, \$1

***Select Seeds
81 Stickney Hill Rd.
Union, CT 06076
all antique, \$1.50

Primrose Path
RD 2, Box 110
Scottsdale, PA 15683
perennials, some old, \$1.50.

***Thompson and Morgan
PO Box 1308
Jackson, NJ 08527
everything, color photos, free

Foxborough Nursery
3611 Miller Rd.
Street, MD 21154
dwarf/odd evergreens, etc.; \$1

Old Thyme Flower & Herbal
Seed Exchange/ B. Bond
Rte. 1, Box 124A
Nebraska City, NE 68410
heirloom seed exchange

Far North Gardens
PO Box 52248
Livonia, MI 48152
diverse perennials, etc., \$2

B. INDIVIDUAL PERENNIALS, ETC.

Brand Peony Farm
PO Box 842
St. Cloud, MN 56302
many old, \$1

New Peony Farm
Box 18105
St. Paul, MN 55118
many old, free

Ensata Gardens
9823 E. Michigan Ave.
Galesburg, MI 49053
Japan. iris, ask for old; free

Heard Gardens, Ltd.
5355 Merle Hay Rd.
Johnston, IA 50131
lilacs, \$1

Arthur H. Steffen, Inc.
PO Box 184
Fairport, NY 14450
clematis, wholesale only, \$2

Lilypons Water Gardens
PO Box 10
Lilypons, MD 21717-0010
\$5

Adamgrove
Rte. 1, Box 246
California, MO 65018
iris, some species & old, \$1

Gilson Gardens
PO Box 277
Perry, OH 44081
groundcovers, free

Kurt Bluemel, Inc.
2740 Greene Lane
Baldwin, MD 21013
ornamental grasses, \$2

Historic Iris Preservation Soc.
Verona M. Wiekhorst, Treasurer
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
society for antique iris, \$3/yr.

C. SPRING AND SUMMER BULBS

***John Scheepers, Inc.
RD 6, Phillipsburg Rd.
Middletown, NY 10940
everything, \$3

Rex Bulb Farms
PO Box 774
Port Townsend, WA 98368
lilies, \$1

McClure & Zimmerman
PO Box 368
Friesland, WI 53935
free

De Jager Bulbs
P.O. Box 2010
South Hamilton, MA 01982
free

C.A. Cruickshank
1015 Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2M1
also perennials, \$3

International Growers Exchange
PO Box 52248
Livonia, MI 48152
diverse, \$5/3 yrs.

***B & D Lilies
330 "P" St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368
many species lilies, \$1

***Daffodil Mart
Rte. 3, Box 794
Gloucester, VA 23061
many old, \$1 list

Van Engelen, Inc.
Stillbrook Farm, 307 Maple St.
Litchfield, CT 06759
free

D. OLD ROSES - See also the listings of old rose nurseries and experts available for a long SASE from the American Rose Society, PO Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130, as well as the Combined Rose List by Beverly R. Dobson (\$11.50, 215 Harriman Rd., Irvington, NY 10533), which lists sources for some 5000 old and new roses.

Roses of Yesterday and Today
802 Brown's Valley Rd.
Watsonville, CA 95076-0398
extensive, \$2

Lowe's Own-Root Roses
6 Sheffield Rd.
Nashua, NH 03062
\$2

***Pickering Nurseries
670 Kingston Rd.
Pickering, Ontario L1V 1A6
high quality, \$2

High Country Rosarium
1717 Downing St.
Denver, CO 80218
\$1

Historical Roses
1657 W. Jackson St.
Painesville, OH 44077
\$1

Antique Rose Emporium
Rte. 5, Box 143
Brenham, TX 77833
\$2

Heritage Rose Gardens
16831 Mitchell Creek Dr.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
\$1

Heritage Roses Group
Dr. Henry Najat/ 6365 Wald Rd.
Monroe, WI 53566
society, regional sub-groups, \$5

E. NATIVE AND WILD PLANTS - See also Nursery Sources--Native Plants and Wildflowers, David R. Longland & Barbara F. Pryor, eds., 1987, New England Wild Flower Society, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Rd., Framingham, MA 01701.

Woodlanders
1128 Colleton Ave.
Aiken, SC 29801
Southeast natives, 2 stamps

***Prairie Nursery
PO Box 365
Westfield, WI 53964
grasses, forbs; seeds, plants, \$2

Prairie Moon Nursery
Rte. 3, Box 163
Winona, MN 55987
wetland, prairie, woodland, \$1

Appalachian Gardens
Box 82
Waynesboro, PA 17268
shrubs, trees, etc.; free

***Forestfarm
990 Tetherow Rd.
Williams, OR 97544
many shrubs, etc., \$2

Sunlight Gardens
Rte 1, Box 600A, Hillvale Rd.
Andersonville, TN 37705
\$2

F. HOUSE PLANTS, BEDDING PLANTS, EXOTICS

***Logee's Greenhouses
55 North St.
Danielson, CT 06239
extensive, \$3

Color Farm Growers
2710 Thornhill Rd.
Auburndale, FL 33823
coleus, \$.50

Cook's Geranium Nursery
712 N. Grand
Lyons, KS 67554
\$1

The Banana Tree
715 Northampton St.
Easton, PA 18042
exotics, \$.75

Shady Hill Gardens
821 Walnut St.
Batavia, IL 60510-2999
geraniums, \$2

Merry Gardens
P.O. Box 595
Camden, ME 04843
fuchsias, geraniums, ivies, etc.

Anabelle's Fuchsia Gardens
32531 Rhoda Lane
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
many old, with dates, \$1

III. EDIBLES AND USEFUL PLANTS

A. MAINLY VEGETABLES

Seeds Blum
Idaho City Stage
Boise, ID 83706
\$3

Ronniger's Seed Potatoes
Star Route
Moyie Springs, ID 83645
SASE

Bountiful Gardens
5798 Ridgewood Rd.
Willits, CA 95490
J. Jeavons, Chase Seeds, free

***Native Seeds/ SEARCH
3950 W. New York Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85745
native & Native American seeds

Vermont Bean Seed Co.
Garden Lane
Fair Haven, VT 05743
many old beans, peas, free

Nichols Garden Nursery
1190 North Pacific Hwy.
Albany, OR 97321
and herb seeds, free

Heirloom Seeds
PO Box 245
West Elizabeth, PA 15088
\$1

Gleckler Seedmen
Metamora, OH 43540
unusual varieties, free

Heirloom Vegetable Gdn. Project
157 Plant Science Bldg.
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-0327
19th-c. collection, SASE + \$1

***Seed Savers Exchange
PO Box 70
Decorah, IA 52101
membership \$15; Inventory \$12

Le Marche/ Seeds International
PO Box 190
Dixon, CA 95620
gourmet, some antiques, \$2

The Tomato Seed Co.
PO Box 323
Metuchen, NJ 08840
some antiques, free

***Southern Exposure
PO Box 158
North Garden, VA 22959
mostly older or heirloom, \$3

Pinetree Garden Seeds
Rte. 100 North
New Gloucester, ME 04260
free

Johnny's Selected Seeds
P.O. Box 2580
Albion, ME 04910
free

Redwood City Seed Co.
PO Box 361
Redwood City, CA 94064
and other "useful plants," \$1

Peace Seeds
2385 SE Thompson St.
Corvallis, OR 97333
diverse, unusual, \$3.50

Grain Exchange
2440 E. Water Well Rd.
Salinas, KS 67401
soc. for old, unusual grains, SASE

Heritage Seed Program
c/o Heather Apple
RR3, Uxbridge
Ontario L0C 1K0
heirloom edibles exchange

CORNS/ Carl & Karen Barnes
Rte. 1, Box 32
Turpin, OK 73950
network for old, unusual corn

Seed Saving Project
Dept. LAWR/ 139 Hoagland Hall
Davis, CA 95616
California-adapted heirlooms, #3

B. MAINLY HERBS

Catnip Acres
Christian St.
Oxford, CT 06483-1224
#2

Sandy Mush Herb Nursery
Rte. 2, Surnett Cove Rd.
Leicester, NC 28748
#4

Well-Sweep Herb Farm
317 Mt. Bethel Rd.
Port Murray, NJ 07865
and flowers, vegetables; #2

Companion Plants
7247 N. Coolville Ridge Rd.
Athens, OH 45701
#2

Fox Hill Farm
440 W. Michigan Ave., Box 9
Parma, MI 49269
plants, #1

***Richtens
Goodwood, Ontario L0C 1A0
Canada's largest, \$2.50

C. FRUIT

***South Meadow Fruit Gardens
15310 Red Arrow Hwy.
Lakeside, MI 49116
vast; free list, #8 catalog

Leuthardt Nurseries
PO Box 666
East Moriches, NY 11940
espalier, free list, #1 handbook

J.E. Miller Nurseries
5060 W. Lake Rd.
Canandaigua, NY 14424
extensive, some antiques, free

***Bear Creek Farms
PO Box 411
Northport, WA 99157-0411
2 stamps

Lawson's Nursery
Rte. 1, Box 473
Ball Ground, GA 30107
antique apples, etc., free

***Applesource/ Tom Vorbeck
Rte. 1
Chapin, IL 62628
apples for taste-testing, free

***Living Tree Centre
PO Box 797
Bolinus, CA 94914
antique apples, #6

NY State Fruit Testing Coop. Assn.
PO Box 462
Geneva, NY 14456
free

Makielski Berry Farms & Nursery
7130 Platt
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
bush fruits, free

Clark Kerr Apple Variety Museum
Pennsylvania State University
Dept. of Horticulture
State College, PA 16801

Burford Bros.
Monroe, VA 24574
apples; list #1, catalog #6

Johnson's Nursery
Rte. 5, Box 29J
Ellijay, GA 30540
peaches, free

Edible Landscaping
P.O. Box 77
Afton, VA 22920
figs, natives, etc., free

Foundation Plant Materials
Service
Univ. of California
Davis, CA 95616
grapes, free list

U.S. Espalier Nursery
16850 NE Leander Dr.
Sherwood, OR 97140
espalier, some old

Worcester Co. Hort. Soc.
30 Tower Hill Rd.
Boylston, MA 01505
antique apples

***North American Fruit Explorers
Rte. 1, Box 94
Chapin, IL 62628
society for old, unusual; #8

IV. PLANT SEARCH SERVICES

North Star
RFD 1 Box 1655A
Burnham, ME 04922
(207) 948-2401

"Plants Wanted"
American Hort. Society/ Box 0105
Mt. Vernon, VA 22121
free for members

Plant Finders of America
106 Fayette Circle
Fort Wright, KY 41011

V. GARDEN FURNISHINGS, FENCING, IRONWORK, STRUCTURES, ETC. - A listing of catalogs and other sources is being compiled by Scott G. Kunst. Your input is welcome. In the meantime, see the listings in the Old-House Journal Catalog (Old-House Journal, 935 Ninth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215, \$15.95 postpaid) and Gardening By Mail II (as cited in the introduction to this source list).

This source list incorporates the work of Arthur O. Tucker, Robert F. Becker, Martin McGann, the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, ALHFAM Seed & Plant Committee members, and many others. Thanks to all.

It was published February 1989 and will be updated regularly. Please help by sending us suggested additions, deletions, corrections, and other feedback.

Single copies are available by mail. ALHFAM MEMBERS please send a business-size, self-addressed, 25-cent-stamped envelope to Robert F. Becker (address above). ALL OTHERS please send \$1.00 plus a business-size, self-addressed, 25-cent-stamped envelope to Scott G. Kunst (address above).

IN PRINT, continued

PERENNIAL COLOR FOR TEXAS AND THE SOUTH, by William C. Welch
--review by Nancy Volkman, Associate Professor
of Landscape Architecture, Texas A & M University

Many books on perennials have come out in recent years, but Dr. Bill Welch [a member of the SGHS Board of Directors] has written one which gives useful guidance in how perennials can be used to create garden designs which are well adapted to the modern small garden and to the contemporary necessity of a relatively self-perpetuating and water-conserving garden, and which rely on historical precedent for both materials and design concept.

As he clearly explains, perennial gardens are well adapted to contemporary life. They provide almost constantly changing effects of varying color and texture, while requiring relatively little maintenance or additional expense, once established. If the average homeowner would spend the one or two hours a week now devoted to lawn maintenance on a perennial garden, he or she would realize how misplaced is the notion that lawn is "easy care" and planting beds time-consuming. Homeowners would also have the greater beauty and variety of the flower garden to enhance their properties.

Proper selection of perennials and companion plants would also assist in water conservation, already an important consideration in much of the South. Many plants used for cottage gardens have survived in these climates, untended, for decades. The history of the use of these plants, such as old roses and native forbes, give testimony to their drought hardiness. Tolerant perennials and shrubs offer a way to create a xeriscape [a landscape adapted to a dry environment] that does not look like a "desertscape."

While the main purpose of Perennial Color for the South is obviously to provide useful information for today's home gardener, this new book also makes a major contribution to the embryonic study of historic landscapes in Texas. The preservation of historic landscapes in Texas is hampered by the lack of well-documented information on how people arranged and planted the land that they occupied. All too often those who wish to create a "period landscape" either use older plants arranged in a modern composition, or, equally inauthentically, copy designs from other areas of the country which in no way reflect the Texas experience and character. Dr. Welch's brief history of cottage gardens and their unique development in the south-central region is an important piece in the historic landscape puzzle just beginning to be assembled.

Beginning with the Spanish period, perennials were used in landscapes of missions and private residential gardens. The Lynchburg, Texas, plantation of the de Zavala family, which was described in detail in a letter, gives readers some idea of the richness of Spanish gardens. An artist's rendering of the design will be included. Other noted Texas gardens, such as those at Eagle Island Plantation and Bolivar, are also mentioned. Thomas Affleck's contributions, both as a nurseryman operating in Natchez, Mississippi, and Washington County, Texas, and as

continued--

Review of Perennial Color for Texas and the South, continued--

author of the influential Southern Rural Almanac, are noted. Other sources of inspiration for cottage gardens, from the mid-nineteenth century "Hill Country Germans" of Texas to the writing of Gertrude Jekyll, are also reviewed. The historical section concludes with a discussion of popular plants of early gardens.

"Perennials Past and Present," a detailed encyclopedia of perennial plants, presents horticultural information in a clear and practical manner. Even those species for which a great amount of information is needed are treated in full, rather than in an overly simplified and brief summary. I have found Perennial Color for Texas and the South to be an exceptionally fine publication, and recommend it for its clarity and usefulness.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AWARD

Jane Campbell Symmes, owner of Cedar Lane Farm, a wholesale nursery in Madison, Georgia, has been chosen to receive an award from the American Horticultural Society at its annual meeting in July of this year. The choice of Mrs. Symmes, an active member of Southern Garden History Society who helped to plan our first annual meeting at Atlanta, was announced in the AHS News Edition, March, 1989.

Mrs. Symmes, a native of Atlanta, became interested in historic houses and gardens while studying art history at Agnes Scott College. She and her late husband, John Cleve Symmes, founded Cedar Lane Farm. For her work there to continue the cultivation of high quality cultivars that are no longer widely available in the trade, Mrs. Symmes will receive the Commercial Award given to an individual person for outstanding work in horticulture.

Jane Symmes served on the first board of trustees of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. As a board member of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, she conceived the exhibition "John Abbot in Georgia: The Vision of a Naturalist Artist (1751-ca. 1840)," presented in 1983. She was named Outstanding Nursery Person by the Georgia Nursery Association in 1982. We join others in praising her for her accomplishments in horticulture and historic preservation, and in congratulating her upon receiving this newest award.

REPORT ON SGHS MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues have been coming in well, reports Flora Ann Bynum, secretary-treasurer. Notices for annual dues were mailed at the end of January. A second notice was sent at the end of April to those who did not respond to the initial notice.

STATE EDITORS OF MAGNOLIA

Alabama

George R. Stritikus
4576 S. Court
Montgomery, AL 36196
(205) 288-1361

Mississippi

Glenn Haltom (Mrs. Robert B.)
108 Dana Road
Natchez, MS 39120
(601) 445-8488

Arkansas

Harriet Jansma
900 Lighton Trail
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(501) 521-1909

North Carolina

Kenneth M. McFarland
Stagville Center
P.O. Box 15628
Durham, N.C. 27704
(919) 477-9835

Florida

Mary A. Staab
2115 N.W. 24th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(904) 378-7263

South Carolina

Mary Palmer Kelley Dargan, ASLA
Hugh Dargan Associates, Inc.
123 Meeting St.
Columbia, S.C. 29401
(803) 723-0942 (O); 723-0913 (H)

Georgia

Lucy Lawliss
1300 Riverside Dr.
Gainesville, GA 30501
(912) 534-7024, ext. 404
532-5785 (H)

Tennessee

Martha Bradley
Eastern Tennessee State Univ.
P.O. Box 20110A
Johnson City, TN 37614
(615) 282-4523

Kentucky

No editor at present--
please volunteer or suggest
someone who can send us news
from Kentucky.

Texas

William C. Welch
225 Horticulture/Forestry
Texas A & M University
College Station, TX 77843-2134
(409) 845-7341 (O); 693-4051 (H)

Louisiana

Our editor has moved out of
the region; please help us
find another.

Virginia

Susanne Shrage-Norton and
J. Dean Norton
Mt. Vernon Ladies Association
Mount Vernon, VA 22121
(703) 780-7262

Maryland

Ed Shull
1302 Edmondson Avenue
Catonsville, MD 21228
(301) 744-2681

West Virginia

Pricilla Lawson (Mrs. Robert W.)
1618 Woodvale Drive
Charleston, W. Va. 25314
(304) 342-5056

SUMMER ISSUE

We will be glad to consider publishing your article on any aspect of Southern garden or landscape history. Send it by August 1, 1989 to Peggy Newcomb, Associate Editor, at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22901, or to the state editor for your state, listed on the previous page. Send us also your news of events, meetings, and publications on topics of interest to our members.

SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108



Mr. C. Allan Brown
809 Winston Terrace
Charlottesville VA 22903