



MAGNOLIA

Newsletter of the
Southern Garden
History Society

(MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA)

John B. Flowers, III, President
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SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

Distributed by
Dr. Edgar G. Givhan II
Montgomery, Alabama

Annual Meeting

Winter, 1985

Members should have received by now a preliminary announcement and registration brochure for the Annapolis meeting. If you wish to attend the meeting and have not yet received the registration packet, write or telephone the Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting, c/o William Paca Garden, #1 Martin Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, telephone (301) 267-6656.

A Seminar for Spring

planned by Historic Annapolis, Incorporated, for the Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society:

Friday, April 26, 1985: Daytime arrival;
Dinner of Maryland Specialties, Governor Calvert House, 7 p.m., followed by lecture: "Archaeology, Research and Restoration of the William Paca Garden," by St. Clair Wright, Chairman of the Paca Garden, and Dr. Mark Leone, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland.

Saturday, April 27, 1985: Continental Breakfast, Calvert House, followed by Annual Business Meeting of Southern Garden History Society;

Morning Tours (both to be repeated after lunch):

1. Gardens of Annapolis, a guided tour of four private gardens of Annapolis and a special 45-minute tour of the William Paca Garden.
2. Great Mansions of Annapolis, a guided tour of four great mansions of Annapolis, all Registered National Historic Landmarks.

Box Lunch on the William Paca Garden Terrace.

Repeat of tours: Gardens of Annapolis, Great Mansions of Annapolis.

Lecture/Demonstration: "Maintaining the 18th Century Garden: Tools and Practices," by Richard Moxley, William Paca Garden Superintendent.

Cocktails at a private home, followed by Epicurean 18th-century dinner at the Maryland Inn. Lecture following dinner: "European Sources for American Garden Design: 1650-1850," by Dr. George B. Tatum, Professor of Architectural History Emeritus, University of Delaware.

Sunday, April 28, 1985: Continental Breakfast, Calvert House; Bus to London Town Publik House Arboretum, followed by U. S. Naval Academy Tour.

Monday, April 29, 1985: Optional tour of National Arboretum.

Mrs. St. Clair Wright and the staff of Historic Annapolis, Inc., have prepared a substantial weekend for us, one that we will enjoy and learn from. We hope that many members can attend.

Garden Restoration

Edgar Givhan, a member of our board and the dedicated distributor (along with Peggy Givhan) of this newsletter, has submitted the following news about garden restoration projects in Alabama, in the hope of hearing about similar activities in other states:

1. Old North Hull Street Historic District is a group of buildings circa 1850 to 1880 that have been brought together by Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery to re-create a nineteenth-century Alabama community. The restoration includes a townhouse, a tavern, a school, a church, a doctor's office, and a number of other structures. It is built around a common green which includes a well and a mule. George Stritikus, of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, and Dr. Givhan are planting shrubs and trees characteristic of the period, and have recently planted flowers within the white picket fences around the townhouse and the tavern.

2. Jasmine Hill Gardens is an early 20th-century restoration similar to Dunnaway Gardens in LaGrange, Georgia. Begun in the early 1930's by Benjamin and Mary Fitzpatrick, the gardens feature reproductions of ancient Greek statuary. Until recently plant materials consisted of trees and shrubs only, but Dr. Givhan and others are now planting flower borders to expand the interest and bloom period in the garden. (Open to the public: P.O. Box 6001, Montgomery, AL 36106).

3. Cypress Hill is a turn-of-the-century Victorian farmhouse in rural Alabama. It is situated on a hill in a grove of trees. The Givhans purchased the property in 1984 and are restoring the house. Their plans include installing period plantings around the house, which will serve as a weekend and vacation retreat. The farm buildings, including a smokehouse, farm office, milking barn, hay barn, tenant house, chicken house, and farm commissary, are intact. There is even a farm bell. The long-range plan (or dream) is to restore the entire complex as an exemplary turn-of-the-century Alabama blackbelt farm.

About Our Board

At our October meeting in Chapel Hill, Board members agreed to prepare brief biographies so that members of SGHS can begin to become acquainted. Four have responded:

I. John Flowers, President, describes himself as follows:

"I have been interested in old gardens since the days, over 40 years ago, when I was given a planting place in my grandmother's garden. There were plants there that had come from family gardens established over a century before. The link with the old gardens of eastern North Carolina was very real to me. As time went on, coming as I did from a family that had for centuries been made up of planters and farmers, I took more interest in field crops, despite my small-town childhood (in Mount Olive, North Carolina). However, the study of botany has eluded me to this day, and the botanical names for plants are Greek to me!

"Since 1970 I have owned and maintained a flower garden and woods garden, and am trying currently to reestablish a lovely garden at my new/old cottage in Thomasville, Georgia, where camellias, azaleas, bulbs, dogwood, pines, oaks, and tea olives grow handsomely in my 'tangled web'.

"For many years I was Research Historian for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh, N. C., where I had responsibility for the garden history research. My major work in print is "People and Plants: North Carolina's Garden History Revisited," published in 1984 by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as part of British and American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century.

"Along with Flora Ann Bynum of Old Salem and the staff of the Reynolda Gardens at Wake Forest University, and with the Stagville Preservation Center at Durham, I was a founder of the first scholarly conference in the United States on the history of Southern gardens. This meeting is held in alternate years at Old Salem. And, along with Flora Ann and William Lanier Hunt, I was a founder of this Society, the Southern Garden History Society."

2. Catherine Howett, SGHS Vice-President, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Environmental Design of the University of Georgia, teaching landscape architecture and landscape history. Her research and writing interests have centered around nineteenth and twentieth century American architectural and landscape history, especially of the South.

In 1982-1983 Catherine served as guest curator of the award-winning exhibition "Land of Our Own: Landscape and Gardening Tradition in Georgia, 1733-1983," sponsored by the Atlanta Historical Society and supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Professor Howett is Book Review Editor of Landscape Journal and a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. She has lectured widely and is author of numerous articles addressing topics in landscape history. She has recently been appointed a 1984-1986 Faculty Fellow at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

3. David H. Rembert, Jr., is Professor of Biology at the University of South Carolina at Columbia. He is a native of Columbia, having completed his undergraduate and masters degrees at the University of South Carolina. He took his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky at Lexington in 1967, and has taught at the University of Kentucky, at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and, since 1967, at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Rembert is a member of numerous professional organizations and has served as editor of the Bulletin of the South Carolina Academy of Sciences and as chairman of the Historical Section of the Botanical Society of America. He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

4. Although Harriet Jansma's interest in design grew in her before she knew it, her interest in gardening started with a need to put down roots after nearly four years of living in Europe, with the purchase and development of a town farmstead (a cottage on 1.5 steeply terraced Ozark acres).

Now Harriet has become deeply interested in gardens and landscape and their relationship to our cultural history. Professionally an aide to rural Arkansas communities in their development of water and wastewater systems, she spends evenings and weekends (when not gardening) ferreting out information and observations on the Arkansas landscape. Along with Allan Brown, also a member of SGHS, she has recently received a grant from the Arkansas Endowment for the Humanities to support travel to continue investigations leading towards a book about the Arkansas landscape as it relates to the state's cultural history.



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History Society**
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