

Natchitoches and the Cane River

Southern Garden History Society



Clementine Hunter Zinnias

39TH ANNUAL MEETING

Natchitoches, Louisiana

March 24-26, 2023

Friday and Saturday

With optional Sunday Picnic

southerngardenhistory.org

ACCOMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Host Hotel (directly across Second Street from the Event Center where lectures will be held)

Chateau Saint Denis Hotel

751 Second Street

Natchitoches, LA 71457

Call (318) 951-4105 for reservations. Mention that you are with SGHS for our group rate.

BED-AND-BREAKFAST INNS

...in historic buildings are also plentiful nearby:

- Church Street Inn
- Judge Porter House B&B
- Rusca House B&B
- Samuel Guy House
- Steel Magnolia House B&B
- Sweet Cane Inn

AIRLINE FLIGHTS AND RENTAL CARS

Two airports are located about an hour's drive from Natchitoches.

Alexandria International Airport (AEX)

Served by Delta (Atlanta), and American (Dallas/Ft. Worth and Charlotte).

Avis, Budget, and National Car Rentals.

Shreveport Regional Airport (SHV)

Served by Delta (Atlanta), American (Dallas/Ft. Worth and Charlotte), United (Houston and Denver), and Allegiant (Asheville). Avis, Enterprise, and Royalty Car Rentals.

New Orleans (MSY) is about four-and-a-half hours' drive. **Baton Rouge (BTR)** is about three hours and fifteen minutes.

Oakland Plantation



Welcome

Welcome to charming Natchitoches (Nak-o-tish), the oldest European settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. France established a military post on the Red River in 1714, before the founding of New Orleans. Still remote, this land of cotton farms and pecan orchards retains its natural beauty, Creole-French-African culture, and historic homes and out-buildings. We'll explore it on foot and by bus.

Friday's talks and walking tours focus on the city made famous by the 1989 film *Steel Magnolias*. Starring Dolly Parton, Sally Field, Julia Roberts, and a remarkable cast of stars, the movie was entirely filmed on location in Natchitoches. It was based on a play by local playwright Robert Harling. Tour a dozen sites including Fort St. Jean Baptiste, the American Cemetery, Olive's Garden at the Samuel Guy House, Northwestern State University, historic churches, and antique houses.

Saturday's talks and field trips take attendees out of town into the plantation country of the Cane River: Isle Brevelle Church, Oakland, Cherokee, and Melrose.

An optional tour on Sunday includes a picnic at Briarwood Nature Preserve, the home of author, naturalist, and first woman forester Caroline Dornon.

African House at Melrose





The Cane River

FRIDAY MARCH 24

8:30 am till 2:00 pm

Conference Registration • Chateau Saint Denis Hotel

8:30 am till 12:00 Noon

Self-guided Walking Tour of Natchitoches Historic District • Maps provided.

Lunch on your own. Many good restaurants nearby.

12:30 till 4:00 pm

Natchitoches Events Center • 750 Second Street

Welcome and Introductions

Brief Business Meeting

Indigenous People and Geology of the Red and Cane Rivers • Jeffrey Girard

Archeologist, Author, and Teacher

Cane River's Cultural Landscape • Suzanne Turner FASLA, Landscape Architect, Historian, Author

New Technologies for Preserving the Cultural Landscape • Jason Church

Chief of Technical Services, NCPTT

Integrating Culture, Art, and Science in Contemporary Landscape Design • Jeffrey Carbo

Landscape Architect, PLA, FASLA

4:30 pm till 5:30 pm

**American Cemetery
Guided Tour**

5:30 pm till 6:30 pm

Drinks on the Cane River

Riverfront Pavilion

6:30 pm

Buffet Dinner at Merci Beaucoup • 127 Church St.



SATURDAY MARCH 25

8:30 am till 11:00 am

Natchitoches Events Center across from the hotel

Cane River's Place in Louisiana's Historic Preservation

Nicole Hobson-Morris, Executive Director, Louisiana
Division of Historic Preservation

Oakland and Magnolia

Dustin Fuqua, Anthropologist; Cultural Resource Program
Manager, Cane River Creole NHP

Clementine Hunter and Melrose

Tom Whitehead, Author and Collector,
Professor Emeritus, Journalism, Northwestern State University

Early Camellias in Louisiana

Wayne Stromeyer MD, Author, Preservationist
Chene Vert, Baton Rouge

Plant Talk: The Friendship of Caroline Dormon and Elizabeth Lawrence

Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator,
Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden

11:15, 11:30, 11:45 am

Buses depart for lunch

St. Augustine Church,

Isle Brevelle



1:15 pm till 3:30 pm

Oakland Plantation, Cane River Creole
National Historical Park

Cherokee Plantation Home (private)

Break

4:30 pm

Board buses for

Drinks at Private Home and Garden

on Cane River

6:00 pm till 9:00 pm

Dinner at Melrose Plantation

Tours of house, African House, and Yucca

Sunset *7:24 pm*

OPTIONAL SUNDAY TOUR SUNDAY MARCH 26

11:00 am till 4:00 pm

Trip to Briarwood Nature Preserve
Home of Caroline Dormon
Picnic Lunch

1:00 pm

Guided Walks

Bayli Quick, Briarwood Curator

Greg Grant, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

Charles Perilloux, Society for Louisiana Irises

Andrea Sprott, Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden



REGISTER ONLINE OR BY MAIL

Online at bontempstix.com/events/sghs

By mail to SGHS,

P.O. Box 631, New Roads, LA 70760

Friday & Saturday conference fee \$450 per person.

Optional Sunday tour & picnic \$125 per person.

Cancellations made by Friday Feb. 24 will be eligible for a full refund. Refunds for cancellations after Feb. 25 will be determined by available funds after all conference expenses have been paid.

CONTACTS

Meeting and Program Info: Randy Harelson
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Registration Info: Aimee Moreau
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