



# MAGNOLIA

Newsletter of the  
Southern Garden  
History Society

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*"The Laurel Tree of Carolina"*  
from Mark Catesby, 1731

(MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA)

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SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Old Salem, Inc.  
Drawer F, Salem Station  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

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## HEADLINE: Good Reading

British and American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century: Eighteen Illustrated Essays on Garden History, co-edited by Dr. Peter Martin, was published by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia; in 1984.

Dr. Martin, garden historian at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and Associate Professor of English, New England College, Sussex, England, is an honorary member of the SGHS board of directors. He writes in the introduction to the book, "It is surprising that American garden history, especially in the eighteenth century, has been neglected. There are fine American garden historians, but they do not write much about their own country's gardens."

But later within the same remarks, Dr. Martin comments, "However, two recent and promising efforts in the United States to generate some intellectual and scholarly movement along these lines are the creation in 1981 of the Southern Garden History Society and the establishment of an American garden history section in the American Society of Landscape Architects."

Of the eight essays on American gardens, five are about Southern gardens, one of them written by John B. Flowers, president of the Southern Garden History Society, titled "People and Plants: North Carolina's Garden History Revisited."

Order the book from The University Press of Virginia, Box 3608, University Station, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-3608, for \$15, plus \$1 postage.

## PREVIEW: Annual Meeting 1986

Put us on your schedule for 1986. The Southern Garden History Society will hold its annual meeting at Montgomery, Alabama, on the weekend of March 14-16, Friday through Sunday.

This early announcement includes only a partial and imperfect list of events and delights that await us, but it is already an impressive array, one that should lure many members to join us for an early spring near the Gulf Coast in south central Alabama.

On Friday, March 14, the day of arrival and registration, participants will receive maps and guides for driving tours of the city, concentrating on its gardens and its history. Because members arrive at different times, these will be designed as self-guided tours; our host group and, we hope, visitors who drive to the meeting, will offer car space to those who are without vehicles.

Saturday's garden tours will include visits to private gardens and also to the Landmarks Restoration Village, a cluster of restored historic buildings where Ed Givhan, our board member and host, and George Stritikus, Associate Agent of the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service who has also been active in SGHS, will create a mid-19th century garden outside the tavern. The day's events will end at Jasmine Hill Gardens with a tour and dinner.

On Sunday, after holding our annual business meeting (always a brisk and pleasant event) we will join other sojourners at the nearby village of Lowndesboro for the Annual Pilgrimage.

Our speakers will include:

- \*Dr. Ed Bridges, Director of Alabama Department of Archives and History;
- \*George Stritikus, Associate County Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service;
- \*John Floyd, Horticulture Editor of Southern Living magazine.

Members will receive a printed announcement with a complete program before year's end, early enough for travelers to purchase low-cost plane fares or to arrange carpools from various corners of our region.

Please plan to join us in Montgomery on March 14 for another great Southern Garden weekend.

## Membership Dues

Delinquent dues notices were mailed August 19 to members who have not paid dues for the year ending April 30, 1985. This is the third notice; members who do not pay will be dropped from the membership roster. By now members should also have received dues notices for 1985-86, the year ending April 30, 1986. If you have paid dues for this year already, you will not receive a notice.

## Many Meetings

This issue will be mailed too late for members to make plans to attend some meetings that are listed. Many of you have been notified about them already. Nevertheless, we will list them, to make all our members aware of events in the fields of gardening, landscape, and horticulture, and to remind you to send your notices of future meetings as early as circumstances allow.

TRYON PALACE GARDEN SYMPOSIUM: Greenville, N.C., October 11, 1985.

This second annual event, sponsored by the East Carolina University Division of Continuing Education, includes lectures on Biltmore Gardens, great Southern gardens, the early English kitchen garden, and garden restoration activities in the Southern states, this last to be presented by William Lanier Hunt, co-founder and honorary president of SGHS.

To register, send \$40 (includes lectures, materials, luncheon) to Garden Symposium, East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. 27834-4353. For further information call (919) 757-6143.

OLD SALEM: Winston-Salem, N.C., October 3-5.

Because earlier sessions of this conference resulted in formation of our Society, and because all SGHS members received announcements in July of the 5th conference on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes," many have surely made plans to attend. There may still be time for others to register.

Theme for this year's conference is "400 Years of Southern Gardens and Landscapes," conceived as a part of the 3-year-long birthday celebration of North Carolina, and commemorating the Roanoke Voyages.

In past years the Salem conference has emphasized the garden and landscape history of the Upper South, but interest in the subject among participants from the Deep South has proved so strong that this year's program includes the entire region.

Consult your brochure for information, or call (919) 723-3688 to be certain that registration is still possible at this date. If so, send registration fee of \$115 (including major meals) to Conference Registrar, Old Salem, Inc., Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108.

The Salem conference is a wonderful place to meet people who know and love gardens and their history, and Old Salem is itself a wonderful environment for reflection and discussion of our past. Not least, the conference is superbly organized and graciously overseen by our own Secretary-Treasurer, Flora Ann Bynum, who has researched thoroughly the plants and landscapes of Old Salem.

## Exhibit Still Open

The exhibit on "The Art of Gardening: Maryland Landscapes and the American Garden Aesthetic, 1730-1930" announced in our last newsletter, will continue on display at the Museum of the Historical Society of Talbot County in Easton, Maryland, through October 15.

One member of SGHS who visited the exhibit has described it as "outstanding, well worth making a trip to see." Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An illustrated catalogue of the exhibit, which includes historical photographs, garden furniture, rare books and letters among its 150 items, may be obtained for \$2.00 from the Historical Society of Talbot County, P.O. Box 964, Easton, MD 21601.

## Another Catalogue

The Garden Seed Inventory, edited by Kent Whealy, is "An Inventory of Seed Catalogs--Listing All Non-Hybrid Vegetable and Garden Seeds Still Available in the United States and Canada." It has been described as a valuable aid for sources of heritage seeds suitable for restored gardens.

Mr. Whealy comments in the book: "The Garden Seed Inventory dramatically illustrates that most commercially available non-hybrid garden seeds are in grave danger. But few people realize that nearly as many heirloom varieties exist that are equally as valuable and just as endangered. All across our country and around the world, elderly gardeners and farmers are keeping unique garden seeds which they have bred up for a lifetime...." The Seed Savers Exchange, publishers of this book, is working to insure the survival of such heirloom seeds.

Order the catalogue from Seed Savers Exchange, 203 Rural Avenue, Decorah, Iowa 52101. Cost in paper cover is \$12 postpaid; in hardcover, also postpaid, \$20.

## SGHS Board

The Board of Directors of Southern Garden History Society will meet at Winston-Salem on Thursday, October 3, in conjunction with the conference announced later in this issue. If you have ideas for the Society to pursue, or organizational items to suggest for discussion, please contact us by writing to Southern Garden History Society, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108, or by telephoning a member of the board.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: 40th annual meeting, Chicago, September 11-15.

This year's theme is "Plants and People: the Renewal of Life," intended to emphasize such topics as horticultural therapy, the restorative powers of urban gardening, and the conservation of our endangered plants.

LeCONTE-WOODMANSTON SEMINAR: Hinesville, Georgia, September 11-12.

Georgia's, and even America's, economic, agricultural, ecological, botanical, and cultural history were affected by two brothers, John and Joseph LeConte, whose grandfather began acquiring land in Liberty County, Georgia, in 1760 and was cultivating rice successfully by 1779. Their father, Dr. Louis LeConte, a physician and scientist, created an internationally known floral and botanical garden there at Woodmanston Plantation, which thrived from 1810 until his death in 1838.

The two brothers became professors at the University of Georgia and later at the University of South Carolina. They were instrumental in the establishment of the University of California; John became its first President at Berkeley, and Joseph became Professor of Geology and was one of the founders of the Sierra Club.

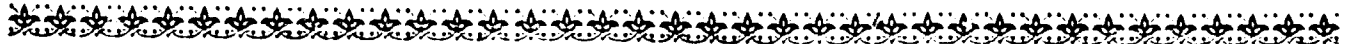
Woodmanston, located on the route of the naturalists John and William Bartram, lay neglected and forgotten after the destruction of the Civil War period, until 1971, when a small group of people in the area began efforts to rescue the site. In 1977, heirs of the C. B. Jones Estate and the Brunswick Pulp Land Company deeded 63.8 acres of Woodmanston to The Nature Conservancy, which in turn conveyed title to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., for the purpose of preservation and restoration.

Though this mailing will arrive too late for members to attend this seminar, information for later visits may be obtained from LeConte-Woodmanston, P.O. Box 356, Hinesville, GA 31313.

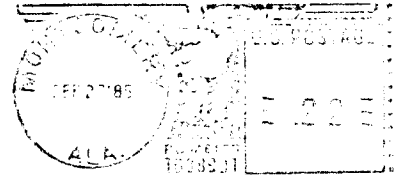
## **Preview: Fall Newsletter**

To whet your appetite for a trip next spring to our meeting in Alabama, our next issue will include information from two articles published some years ago in The Alabama Review: "Decorative Plants Around Historic Alabama Homes," by Henry P. Orr, published in 1958; and "Ornamental Plantings in Eufaula," also by Mr. Orr, published in 1963 (Eufaula lies on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, which flows between southern Alabama and Georgia.)

Other news to be included? That will come from you, dear members. Please do not fail to send it promptly.



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