



# Magnolia

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

Publication of the Southern Garden  
History Society

Vol. XXIII

No. 1

Fall 2009 - Winter 2010

## Restoring the Monticello Landscape, 1923-1955

By Peter J. Hatch, Director of Gardens and Grounds,  
Monticello

[This article is taken from "Seeking our Roots: The Saviors of Monticello, 1826-1977," presented by the author as the Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference's "Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture," September 24, 2009, at Old Salem.]

Monticello was purchased, and formed into the non-profit Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation on December 1, 1923, by an alliance of New York lawyers and businessmen associated with the Democratic Party and the Woodrow Wilson administration. Under the leadership of Stuart Gibboney, the Foundation purchased the property from Jefferson Monroe Levy for \$500,000, \$100,000 of which was due in the first year. Levy, surely one of the saviors of Monticello for his preservation efforts, was stubbornly determined to retain the property rather than turning Monticello into a "mere museum," and only relinquished it because of severe strains on his personal finances. The price tag, however, was regarded as exorbitant. New York City schoolchildren donated \$35,000 in pennies the first year of the mortgage, which was not paid off until the 1940s. The partisan roots of the early Foundation were evident, and roundly criticized, when in 1926 Democratic Presidential nominee Al Smith, a "wet" [opponent of Prohibition] and a Catholic from New York, spoke at the hundredth anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's death.

By 1924, based on the letters in the Foundation archives, Fiske Kimball was clearly the instigator in championing the restoration of Jefferson's landscape and gardens. Sidney Fiske Kimball, a Harvard educated architectural historian who taught art and architecture at the University of Virginia, did more than anyone else to broadcast Jefferson's capabilities as an architect through his authorship of *Thomas Jefferson Architect*, 1916. Kimball served as chairman of the Monticello Restoration Committee

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West Front of Monticello in springtime

Photo by Peter Hatch

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# CALENDAR

**January 11, 2010. Charleston Horticultural Society's Annual 1830 Award Presentation**, features author, plant collector, and lecturer Daniel J. Hinkley, speaking on "The Explorers Garden." Mr. Hinkley established the gardens Heronswood, in Kingston WA, and Windcliff, on the Kitsap Peninsula near Indianola, WA. He also is well known for collecting, propagating, and naming plant varieties new to the North American nursery trade. For more information, contact CHS, [info@charlestonhorticulturalsociety.org](mailto:info@charlestonhorticulturalsociety.org) or telephone (843) 579-9922.

**February 4-6, 2010. Southeastern Flower Show: "Discover the Beauty of Green"** at Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA, (404) 351-1074; [www.sehort.org/flower\\_show](http://www.sehort.org/flower_show).

**February 8, 2010. Charleston Horticultural Society** presents a lecture by Peggy Cornett, curator of plants at Monticello, on "Preserving the Plants of the Past: Historic Plants at Monticello." Ms. Cornett will address Thomas Jefferson's gardening legacy throughout his lifetime and beyond, with a special focus on current efforts to preserve the many historic plant varieties grown in the flower, fruit, and vegetable gardens at Monticello. For more information, contact CHS, [info@charlestonhorticulturalsociety.org](mailto:info@charlestonhorticulturalsociety.org) or telephone (843) 579-9922.

**February 19, 2010. Southern Garden Heritage Conference** at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens. Featured speakers include Robin Salmon on garden sculpture and Brookgreen Gardens; Sue Burgess on efforts to save the historic Root House in Marietta, Georgia; Keyes Williamson with an update on the Elizabeth Lawrence Garden in Charlotte, North Carolina; John Waters and Jim Cothran taking a look at historic architecture and notable gardens of Savannah, Georgia; and Gerard Krewer, who will talk about Georgia's rare and unusual fruits. For further information, contact Connie Cottingham, Public Relations and Special Events, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, 2450 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA 30605; phone: 706-542-6014; fax: 706-542-3091; email: [ashenk@uga.edu](mailto:ashenk@uga.edu)

**February 27, 2010. The Exuberant Garden: Creating Joyous Spaces**, Atlanta Botanical Garden Atlanta, GA. The Exuberant Garden is a place where the joy of creating a beautiful space mingles with the satisfaction of realizing the fruits of your labor. Speakers Brooks Garcia, Claire Sawyers, Ruth Baumgardner, Terry May, and Mildred Pinnell Fockele will reveal new ways of thinking about garden style, form, ornament, and care for both the novice and experienced gardeners. (404) 876-5859 Ext. 2558.

**March 2, 2010. Through the Seasons: A Southern Garden's Journey**, Davidson Horticultural Symposium in Davidson, NC. The 26<sup>th</sup> Davidson Horticultural Symposium invites you to reflect on the pleasures of the Southern Garden as we journey through each season and onward through the years. Speakers and workshop presenters include W. Gary Smith, Allan Armitage, SGHS Honorary Board Member Bill Welch, Robin Ripley, and Pam Baggett. Information at (704) 604-6618 or email [mwwwstewart@bellsouth.net](mailto:mwwwstewart@bellsouth.net); [www.davidsonsymposium.org](http://www.davidsonsymposium.org)

**March 20, 2010. Stratford Hall presents: "Plants from the Past: A Living Legacy for our Gardens and Yours."** Monticello's curator of plants Peggy Cornett (also chair of Stratford's historic gardens advisory panel) will speak on "Historic Plants: Why Grow Them, Where to Get Them, and How to Tend Them." Joining her will be Dennis Whetzel, nursery manager at the Thomas Jefferson

Center for Historic Plants, who will provide instruction on rose propagation and offer an array of historic plants for sale. After lunch, Stratford Hall's long-time garden consultant, and plant authority, Donald Haynie will address the herbs of medieval gardens, demonstrating the great debt owed the monasteries of Europe for preserving gardening traditions, which otherwise might have been lost. For more details contact: Ken McFarland at (804) 493.8038, ext. 1558, or email [kmcfarland@stratfordhall.org](mailto:kmcfarland@stratfordhall.org).

**April 11-12, 2010. Colonial Williamsburg's 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Symposium**, "Timeless Lessons from Historic Gardens." Period gardens at Colonial Williamsburg and other historic sites provide an infinite selection of ideas that can be adapted effectively to the modern home garden. Whether you are interested in designing a formal garden, growing heirloom plants, or making a garden structure, there are many lessons to be learned from historic gardens. Colonial Williamsburg's 64<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Symposium will focus on design concepts, gardening techniques, and plant selections that have stood the test of time. Speakers will emphasize the elements of traditional gardens that can be customized easily to smaller, residential settings. The symposium will include both general sessions and optional afternoon activities. Visiting speakers are: Jennifer Bartley, Principal, American Potager; garden author Ken Druse; John Forti, Strawberry Banke Museum; Gordon Hayward, author; Mary Hughes, University of Virginia; Teta Kain, birder; Scott Kunst, owner, Old House Gardens; G. Michael Shoup; owner, Antique Rose Emporium. Information at (800) 603-0948; [www.history.org/History](http://www.history.org/History)

**April 17-25, 2010. Historic Garden Week in Virginia.** America's oldest and largest house and garden tour program. Beginning in February, a comprehensive guidebook providing descriptions of houses and gardens open, directions, ticket prices, and the names and telephone numbers of local tour organizers can be obtained by mailing a \$6 donation to Historic Garden Week, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Guidebooks will also be available free of charge during Garden Week at properties open. An online schedule will be available beginning in January at: [www.vagarden-week.org/schedule.htm](http://www.vagarden-week.org/schedule.htm)

**April 21-24, 2010. Enchanted Landscapes: Exploring Cultural Traditions and Values**, Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM. For information, visit: [www.ahlp.org/docs/meetings.html#2009](http://www.ahlp.org/docs/meetings.html#2009)

**April 28, 2010. Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center** hosts a lecture featuring celebrated author Emily Herring Wilson, who will discuss her new book, *Becoming Elizabeth Lawrence: Discovered Letters of a Southern Gardener* (April 2010). The 3:00 pm lecture, followed by a book signing, is free, but reservations are required. To register or for more information, e-mail [scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com](mailto:scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com) or telephone (404) 814-4046.

**April 30-May 2, 2010. Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society** returns to Mount Vernon, Virginia. The planning committee members, Dean Norton, Gail Griffin, Mollie Ridout, and Wayne Amos, have developed an outstanding program, which includes lectures and tours in Alexandria, a paddlewheel trip on the Potomac River to Mt. Vernon, and a day of lectures and tours at George Washington's home. Contact Dean Norton for more information: [dnorton@mountvernon.org](mailto:dnorton@mountvernon.org).

## Restoring the Monticello Landscape..... (continued from page 1)

and spearheaded the restoration of the house through the 1950s, usually in conjunction with Milton Grigg, a Charlottesville architect.

Kimball began soliciting support from garden clubs to restore Monticello's gardens. He went first to the Albemarle Garden Club, unique in being both a founding member of the Garden Club of Virginia and the Garden Club of America. Two of its members that were involved since 1924 were critical to the process of garden restoration at Monticello. Susanne Williams Massie, author of *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia* and matron of Rose Hill, a lovely western Albemarle country house with a garden designed by Charles F. Gillette, was the powerbroker not only for the Albemarle Garden Club but also in the statewide organization. The Massie Medal for distinguished service remains today the oldest and most prestigious of the Garden Club of Virginia awards. Mrs. Hazlehurst B. Perkins lived in Charlottesville "in the shadow of Monticello," and served as the ultimate project manager for the garden club's involvement with Monticello. Perkins was a woman who got things done and, for those of you from the Southern Garden History Society, she could be considered the Flora Ann Bynum of Monticello.

Kimball's initial appeals for garden club support focused on the Garden Club of America. With the full support of Board Chairman, Stuart Gibboney, he corresponded and met numerous times with its early leadership in New York City. Kimball's early appeals between 1925 and 1927 were universally rejected. Kimball and Gibboney also met with Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in the firm's New York offices. The Olmsted firm offered to donate their time to develop a landscape survey if the Foundation would cover their minimal expenses. Reflecting the impoverished state of Monticello's finances, the Foundation decided instead to commission a survey from the University of Virginia's Department of Engineering, and the Olmsted offer was rejected.

Meanwhile, in 1926 the Garden Club of Virginia, led by Mrs. Massie and Mrs. Perkins, invested very appropriately in the neglected trees around the house at Monticello. With the aid of a \$7,000 donation, the Foundation hired a New York "tree surgeon," George Van Yahres, to rehabilitate and preserve the Jefferson-era trees. One Garden



Photo by Peter Hatch

East Front of Monticello

Club of Virginia official, when asked in the late 1930s for more funds for Monticello, wondered why more money was needed since they had already "fixed" the trees on the estate. The photographic record of Van Yahres work provides a remarkable view of the state of the art of arboriculture in the early twentieth century. Van Yahres ultimately moved his company and established its headquarters in Charlottesville. George's son, Mitchell, continued to serve as Monticello's consulting arborist until his death in 2008. Mitch also became a popular political figure, serving as Mayor of Charlottesville as well as an outspoken twenty-year member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Fiske Kimball's repeated requests to the Garden Club of America finally bore fruit in 1927. Mrs. Irving Pratt donated money to develop plans for restoring the Monticello flower garden. The Garden Club, however, stipulated that Monticello hire a Connecticut landscape designer, Amy Cogswell, to carry out the design. A Yankee spinster, Cogswell was an "expert in colonial gardens and old fashioned flowers." Her letters suggest, on the one hand, a modest, self-effacing, and thrifty personality, but on the other, a disposition both irritatingly chirpy and nervously impulsive.

Kimball's immediate goal was to break the ice and carefully introduce Cogswell to the local power brokers. He wrote to Massie and Perkins that Miss Cogswell will be performing the "steps for restoring the flower beds," and asked them to help out. He wrote,

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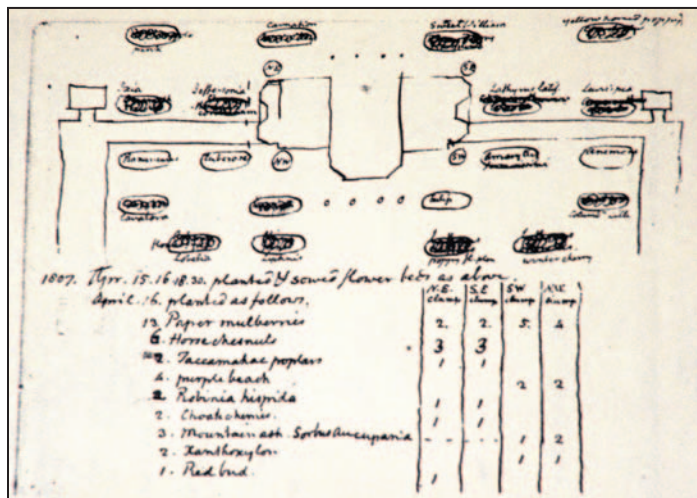
TJF Archives

Photograph of George Van Yahres with purple beech tree during the 1920s

## Restoring the Monticello Landscape. . . . . (continued from page 3)

“You will find her a most delightful companion.” When Cogswell arrived from Connecticut by train, Kimball had arranged for personal visits to the homes of Massie and Perkins, as well as meeting with the Albemarle Garden Club. It is unclear why this never worked out, nor why Cogswell never personally met with Kimball. Nonetheless, she began to stake off flower beds immediately around the house at Monticello. She apparently used a Jefferson scaled drawing from the late 1770s, but also relied on the well-known Jane Braddick Peticolas watercolor of Monticello from 1825. Cogswell expressed frustration that trees interfered with her scheme and confessed to Kimball how she was compromising in order to blend the horticultural demands of the flower beds with the existing conditions. She not only composed planting plans but began ordering plants from commercial nurseries. Cogswell returned to Connecticut and Kimball wrote to her, “I am delighted with everything you did.”

Cogswell’s plans, which have not survived or may have simply existed as stakes in the ground, incited an immediate backlash, a firestorm of protest, from the Albemarle Garden Club. Kimball, as well, changed his tune and confessed to Gibboney how the Cogswell layout was “unfortunate.” Cogswell willingly withdrew from the project, “while the ladies make their plans.” She continued in a letter to Kimball, “Things in the south move much slower than they do up here.” Kimball replied, “when the tumult and shouting [die], let’s let things simmer—time being a great healer.” Susan Massie was undoubtedly the ringleader in the resistance to Cogswell. Kimball wrote Massie in November 1928: “I hope the day may come when we can have your blessing to put it all back as it was in his day.” Massie responded, “I would be delighted to see the gardens restored properly.” Cogswell, when asked by Kimball to return to Monticello ten years later, responded, “Would not a southern woman be more acceptable than a Yankee?”

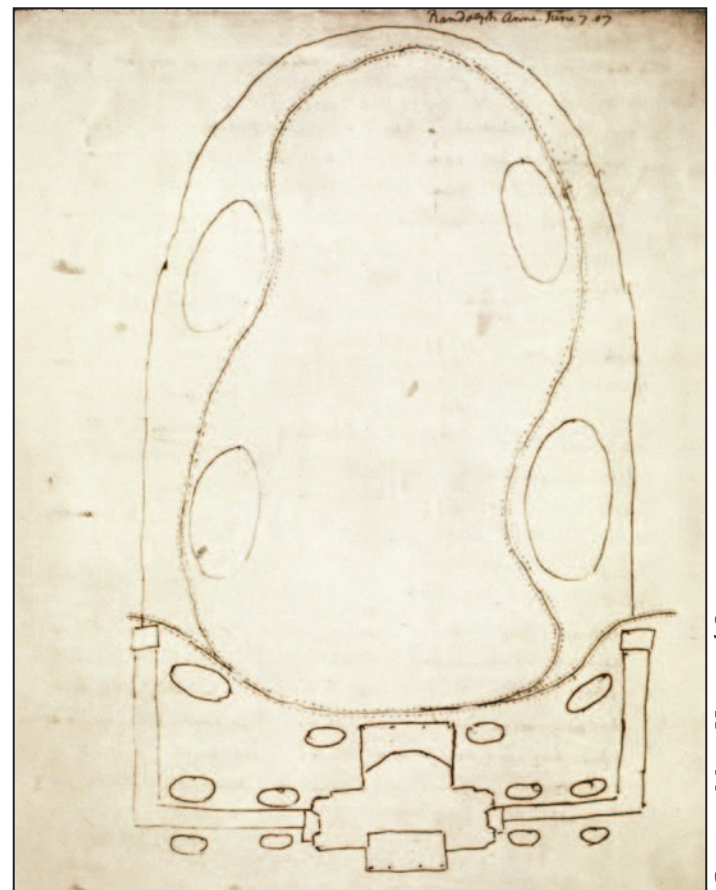


Plan of oval and round flower beds on the East and West Fronts of Monticello, drawn by Jefferson, 1807

I think so. Or—better still—a Man.”

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation had more pressing matters to deal with during the 1930s than flower beds. A Virginia state conservation engineer, W. E. Carson, wrote a report in 1933 deploring the condition of the house. In addition, he said the “condition of the roads and drives is terrible. The entire estate is suffering very heavily from erosion.” Carson said that remedial work on the roads and erosion could occupy his entire Civilian Conservation Corps camp for six months. “In conclusion,” he wrote, “the income derived from visitors is totally inadequate to take care of the upkeep and at the same time to pay off such indebtedness as they have . . . it is only a matter of time before this beautiful shrine falls into a state of decay.” In 1934, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Public Roads appropriated \$30,000 to rebuild the entrance and exit roads with gates, stone walls, and engineered water control. In 1935 the Civilian Conservation Corps performed remedial landscape work, repairing eroded slopes, clearing away underbrush in the Monticello forests, and removing stumps.

Four years later in 1938, the gardens still not restored, Kimball again wrote the President of the Albemarle Garden Club, Mrs. Robert Webb, and the Garden Club of Virginia, requesting funds to restore the gardens. “Even



Plan of winding walk, borders, and beds sketched by Jefferson on the back of a letter to Anne Randolph, June 1807

Courtesy, Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Courtesy, Mass. Historical Society

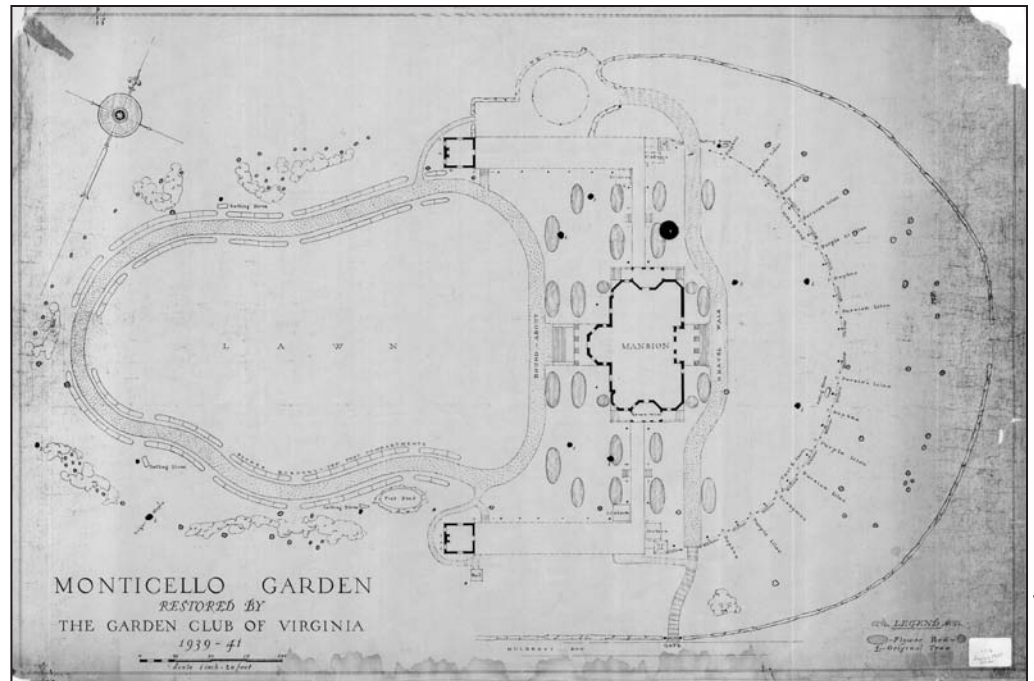
Sue Massie has come around,” wrote Garden Club of Virginia President, Mrs. Thomas Boggs. As a result of the Cogswell fiasco, the restoration of the Monticello gardens was, after ten years, still a delicate issue. Kimball had written Massie in May 1938, and asked for \$10,000: “I think today we all feel more kindly to the ideal of putting things back the way they were, irrespective of whether we ourselves wanted to do them just that way or not.” Massie responded: “Since there is only one Monticello and if the consensus of opinion of the general public is that the restoration of the garden should be done I shall be in sympathy with it.”

The oncoming President of the Garden Club of Virginia, Mrs. Thomas Wheelwright, placed Hazlehurst Perkins in charge. Mrs. Perkins wrote to Kimball on November 28, 1938, and suggests how the tension with Susan Massie may have arisen over questions of authenticity: “We are not landscaping Monticello on our own but carrying out Mr. Jefferson’s plans in detail. This we will have to get across to Mrs. Massie. It has no interest to me or value unless we work in the *original plans*.”

Fiske Kimball recommended that Dr. Edwin Betts, Professor of Botany at the University of Virginia, work with Mrs. Perkins. Betts’ involvement was arguably the most critical factor in the success of the flower garden restoration. A scholar’s scholar, Betts was a tireless documentary authority and editor of *Thomas Jefferson’s Farm Book* (1953) and *Thomas Jefferson’s Garden Book* (1944). Perkins ultimately was the project manager for the restoration, but she leaned heavily on the academic expertise of Dr. Betts. She wrote, “Dr. Betts is the shy-sincere student type of man and expects no reward but satisfaction in work well done,” and on another occasion, “Dr. Betts is slow and meticulous . . . when he says it is right I am sure it is.”

In January 1939 the Garden Club of Virginia allocated \$10,000 for the restoration of Thomas Jefferson’s flower garden. The agreement stipulated that the Foundation provide an ample water supply to irrigate the gardens and provide the labor to maintain them. In addition, Monticello would allocate twenty per cent of the gate receipts from Garden Week to the Garden Club of Virginia. The Garden Club was already receiving ten per cent of Garden Week proceeds as early 1935, in gratitude for the Van Yahres tree work in the 1920s.

Perkins summarized her intent in a lecture following



Garden Club of Virginia plan for Monticello garden restoration, 1939-41

TJF Archives

the flower garden restoration: “A choice of method has to be made at the start of a project, whether to let ones idea of suitability and good taste outweigh the rebuilding by directions as given by a former owner, or maybe compromise on a middle course. Possibly because I have lived so long in the Jeffersonian atmosphere I felt that I had a trust in my keeping so my decision was made to recreate. If Mr. Jefferson had planted thus and so we should not deviate but carry out his ideas always with the thought of trying to please him whose vital spirit still is felt in Albemarle. This decision met with the approval of the Restoration Committee and actual work at Monticello was started in March, 1939.”

Mrs. Perkins also kept a diary of the methodology by which the Monticello garden was restored. The Monticello Committee consisted of Fiske Kimball, Milton Grigg, Edwin Betts, Susan Massie, Perkins, and Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Kidder, board directors of the Garden Club of Virginia. Perkins’ diary suggests how the committee was often baffled by the various documents for the landscape, and how they considered a variety of Jefferson plans for the flower gardens, including the renowned Peticolas painting from 1825, which was dismissed by Perkins as showing flower beds in “an entirely different shape from the original plan.” Another alternative was “to build at the spring on the north end of the park the temple, cascades, cisterns so well describes by Jefferson. “This would undoubtedly be carrying out a dream unfulfilled by Jefferson whose ideas always far out-stripped his pocket book . . . I have read numerous references to this scheme & am sure that something lovely & authentic [Mrs. Perkins scratched out “& authentic”] could be built.” The Committee also

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considered Jefferson's "Trees of alcove" plan from the 1780s. This scaled drawing of the house and adjacent plantings shows geometric beds on the West Front and the regular spacing of trees along the North and South Terraces. Although Massie and Milton Grigg may have favored this scheme, Perkins felt, "again, [it was] different in shape. Nowhere could be found any notes saying it had been carried out."

After reviewing these alternatives, Perkins disclosed a dramatic discovery, a document showing Jefferson's plan for the oval flower beds in April 1807. This rough sketch was brought to light at the last moment by Edwin Betts, who found it at the Pennsylvania Historical Society. "Dr. Betts has found planted in the same positions as mentioned by Jefferson several of the shrubs and trees as shown on this plan." In addition, the Committee had in hand a Jefferson sketch of the winding walk and accompanying flower border around the West Lawn, one of which was on the back of a letter to his granddaughter, Anne. Jefferson wrote her, "The first time I come home I will lay out the projected flower borders round the level [of the West Lawn] so that they shall be ready for the next fall . . . We shall then have room enough for everything."

Hazlehurst Perkins actually credited a well-known landscape architect, Morley Williams, for discovering, seven years earlier in 1932, the extant evidence of the winding walk and flower borders. Williams, who spearheaded garden restorations at Mt. Vernon, Stratford Hall, and Tryon Palace, was an early pioneer in the field of garden archaeology. By casting the headlights of his automobile across the West Lawn, Williams reported on the clear evidence of the sunken depression of the winding walk, as well as the raised contour of the accompanying narrow borders on either side. Perkins also repeated, and confirmed, the Williams experiment herself: "To make doubly sure of the contour a car was driven up in the lawn at night with the lights turned on. The curves and width were even more distinctly visible. A gravel path was located by not only a definite mound and side depression, but in the early spring was outlined by clumps of bulbs (hyacinths and narcissus) coming up in the sod." Perkins wrote that the Committee also found the winding walk gravel by digging cross sections into the sod. Williams also had informed Edwin Betts how an oval-shaped, "very marked depression . . . might be the fallen-in remnant of a pool." This depression had been considered a flower bed, according to Perkins, but upon investigation by the Committee, its dimensions corresponded to a Jefferson Farm Book notation and a rudimentary archaeological excavation revealed subsoil bricks that indicated to the Committee the location and size of Jefferson's Monticello Fish Pond.

Hazlehurst Perkins' diary vividly evokes the tenor of



Postcard of West Front of Monticello, ca. 1910

TJF Archives



West Lawn of Monticello, 1955

TJF Archives

the Monticello Restoration Committee meetings, sometimes held in the unfurnished North Pavilion. "Mr. Wood at Mrs. Perkins request furnished the room for the day in exquisite antiques, chairs, tables, books, clock on the mantle, love seat and colonial basis stand. A charming setting. The Valley View Greenhouses made some exquisite arrangements of flowers for the room." The Committee would then adjourn to Farmington Country Club for a luncheon after debating issues about the number of compartmentalized flower beds along the winding walk border, where to install "sod breaks" to accommodate visitor traffic, and how to treat the East Front walkways. Perkins wrote repeatedly about how they wanted to match the "plans with Jefferson's actions, and not landscaping the grounds according to our tastes today. "We feel that we must make no mistakes and therefore that nothing must be hurriedly done. Your committee begs that you will be patient so that we may feel sure than Mr. Jefferson's plant-

ings will be reproduced in meticulous accuracy and that the garden may come again to life as landscaped by the Sage of Monticello.”

The Committee hired Garland A. Wood from Richmond, a nurseryman and landscape designer in his family firm, T. W. Wood and Sons, to prepare “a scale drawing of beds, borders, and walks.” Wood was a recent graduate of Harvard in Landscape Architecture and Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Horticulture. The choice of plants and the planting design was likely the result of collaboration with Edwin Betts, while the scale drawing itself was reportedly drawn by Floyd Johnson, a young architect employed in the Charlottesville office of Milton Grigg. The plan was presented to the Garden Club of Virginia Restoration Committee on October 26, 1939. A local man, Lawrence Kelly, was hired as Monticello’s gardener, and under the direction of Mrs. Perkins work began preparing planting beds and graveling walkways on November 15. The West Lawn portion of the restoration was completed in 1940 despite the demise of Mr. Kelly, who, according to a letter from Perkins to Stuart Gibboney on March 18, 1940,



TJF Archives

Images of Monticello roads prior to restoration, 1902, from USDA Public Road Inquiries Bulletins

“was burned to death in his home. This means we’ll need another gardener.”

Although the West Lawn flower beds were completed, many issues remained in 1940. Perkins documents the discussion of the treatment of features such as the Fish Pond, setting stones (which came from Colonel L. L. Owen of Old Lynchburg Road, Charlottesville), East Front beds and walks, and the Post and Chain plantings, also on the East Lawn. The post and chain, which traced an intermittent planting of weeping willows and flowering shrubs, was eventually recreated through a grant from the Garden Club of America.

A mild conflict seemed to evolve between the horticulturally-oriented duo of Betts and Perkins on the one hand, and architect Milton Grigg on the other, about the degree of formality to inject into the layout of the flower beds. Grigg had prepared an alternative plan, published in *The Commonwealth* magazine in August, 1939, but he seemed accepting of the Betts/Perkins arguments: “People will be startled by the lack of symmetry,” and the gardens departure from accepted norms: the absence of geometrical beds, boxwood, or balanced plantings. Grigg, however, acknowledged how the restoration reflected Jefferson’s “inventive genius.” He added, “The only real problem was determining which of the designs was executed,” and concluded, “It is possible to achieve a measure of accuracy and of fidelity to original forms never before approached in this country.”

The diary of Hazlehurst Perkins included an interesting comment on still another alternative approach to recreating the Monticello landscape. She wrote:

*“The dignity of the mansion should not be detracted from by an unkempt [ornamental] garden. It was then brought to our attention that the dignity, charm and repose at Monticello now was due to the lack of a broken up lawn to the west. We were frankly asked why we did not make a perfect vegetable & fruit garden and restore that rather than ‘messaging of a majestic lawn.’ Further suggestions came from the same group saying that a beautiful vegetable and fruit garden would add more interest for the tourist & that fruit and vegetables could be sold to them on the grounds—boxes of raspberries, baskets of figs, even fresh peas from Jefferson’s garden! Again, the upkeep would be expensive.”*

Betts wrote on October 14, 1940: “I don’t know of any thing that I had rather see done at Monticello more than restoring the vegetable gardens.” Some discussion arose concerning the possibility of restoring the Monticello vegetable garden, but the idea was abandoned because of World War II and the ensuing pressures on the Foundation’s finances.

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## Restoring the Monticello Landscape..... (continued from page 7)

The flower garden restoration, including the addition of brick walkways and flower beds on the East Front, was completed by 1941. The Foundation constructed a 100,000 gallon reservoir, in part, to irrigate the flower gardens, and the final cost was reported to be \$18,500. Hazlehurst Perkins and Edwin Betts were co-authors of *Thomas Jefferson's Flower Garden at Monticello* (1941), which was dedicated to the members of the Garden Club of Virginia and described the process of the flower garden restoration. In 1948 the gardener, H. B. Burton, retired, replaced by Mr. Hendricks, a Michigan native, who is soon dismissed for his lack of supervisory skills and a failure to adhere to restoration plants. Curtis Thacker was hired in 1950 as superintendent of buildings and grounds, in part because of his reputation as “the best gardener in the county.”

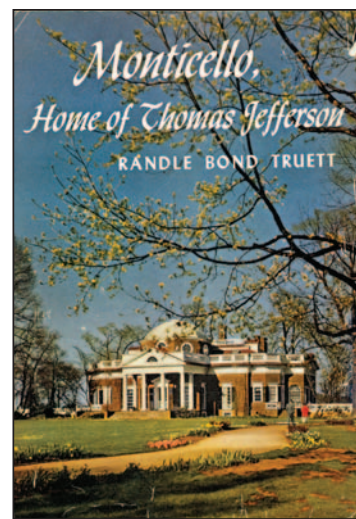
Mrs. Perkins continued as “Chairman of the Grounds” until 1949, when she resigned and made four requests of Fiske Kimball and the Foundation. First, to create a resident manager position at a time when the Foundation was still, basically, run from New York City. She asked that the rest rooms below the South Terrace and Pavilion be removed. She asked that Monticello “do away with colored men guides,” and use local women as “hostesses.” Finally, Perkins asked the Foundation to institute a flower arranging program. Kimball agreed with suggestions and wrote, “What a wonderful and exceptional woman you are.” Kimball complained about local “educated” women attacking restoration efforts “. . . Everything the Foundation has done at Monticello has been the subject of constant local opposition from the grand ladies except you.” Kimball then complained about the existing women hostesses, “who have made no effort to master the history.”

Although it is unclear about the source of discontent with the state of Monticello’s flower gardens, the Foundation contracted with Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Architect, Alden Hopkins, in 1954, for revisions. Hopkins prepared detailed plans, “Proposed Planting Revisions and Recommendations for Landscape Improvements at Monticello.” Hopkins believed “The oval planting beds

were much too disjointed with small bunches of planting rather than a dignified and composed build up to a rounded mound.” He wrote that the beds were “too ragged” and “lacked uniformity” with leggy deciduous roses and mock oranges. “Hopkins observed that “Mr. Jefferson probably planted the oval beds as a trial for one year expecting, after he had seen its poor value in the landscape, to discard it for something more

showy.” Hopkins’ revisions included oval beds composed of mounded evergreens—yew, euonymus, and rhododendron—and edgings of periwinkle. His plan expressed common landscaping concepts from the 1950s: the use of evergreens like Pfitzer juniper, Japanese yews, and “lollipop” euonymus standards in the oval beds; foundation plantings; the conspicuous planting of two, balanced Lombardy poplars on the West Front of the house; and an infusion of Asian plants that post-dated the Jefferson era.

What a line-up: Fiske Kimball, Susan Massie, Amy Cogswell, Hazlehurst Perkins, George Van Yahres, Milton Grigg, Edwin Betts, Morley William, and Alden Hopkins! The involvement of so many disparate figures and strong personalities in the restoration of the landscape at Monticello testifies to the evolving character of the Foundation that bought Monticello in 1923, the ephemeral nature of plants and gardens, and to the complexity of interpreting Thomas Jefferson himself. All have an impact on the restored garden as it exists in 2009. Above all, perhaps, we need to salute the Albemarle Garden Club: one wonders if any other garden club has made such a conspicuous contribution to American public and historic gardens as Thomas Jefferson’s flower garden at Monticello.



Book cover by Randle Bond Truett, 1957

TJF Archives

## Landreth Seed Commemorative Newsletter Series & Catalog

To commemorate the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the **D. Landreth Seed Company**, America’s Oldest Seedhouse, Landreth is publishing a newsletter in twelve installments detailing the history and development of the American seed trade from the late 1700s to the present.

The company, owned by SGHS member **Barbara Malera**, is also publishing a beautiful commemorative catalog which will be available in December 2009. Go to the Web site to order the newsletter/catalog, [www.landrethseeds.com](http://www.landrethseeds.com) or telephone (800) 654-2407.



# Review: “Returning to Our Roots: Planting and Replanting the Historic Southern Garden”

*Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference, September 24-26, 2009*

*By Staci L. Catron, Atlanta, Georgia*

Held this fall in Old Salem, the 17<sup>th</sup> Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of this biennial conference—a vital event for historians, gardeners, heirloom plant enthusiasts, and preservationists in the Southeast. The conference’s mission is to discuss historical horticulture, garden history, and landscape restoration in the Southern states. This year’s sessions gave participants the opportunity to share new research on significant landscapes in the South, to learn about the restoration of historic gardens by The Garden Club of Virginia, to glean sources and stories for bulbs, fruits, vegetables, and roses for Southern gardeners, to explore the grounds of James Monroe’s Oak Hill, and to discover the avenues to recreate a mid-nineteenth century garden in Marietta, Georgia.

Following afternoon tours of the Old Salem gardens, led by Director of Horticulture, Matthew Noyes, the conference opened on Thursday evening at MESDA auditorium with the Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture, given by Peter J. Hatch. Flora Ann’s daughter, Lee Bynum Schwall, introduced the lecture by giving a moving tribute to her mother and the friendship she enjoyed with Peter during his years as Horticulturist of Old Salem before leaving for a new opportunity at Monticello. As Director of Gardens and Grounds for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Mr. Hatch has been responsible for the maintenance, interpretation, and restoration of the 2,400-acre landscape at Monticello for over thirty years. His lecture, “Seeking our Roots: The Saviors of Monticello, 1826-1977” (see lead article in this issue), provided an insightful examination of the succession of owners, gardeners, and ultimately The Garden Club of Virginia that shaped the grounds of Monticello after Thomas Jefferson’s death in 1826 until Peter was hired in 1977.

The five presentations shared on Friday focused on resources for the historic Southern garden. Peggy Cornett, Curator of Plants at Monticello, served as the moderator for the sessions. Owner of the firm Old House Gardens, Scott Kunst discussed the significance of preserving and sharing heirloom bulbs in Southern gardens. William Patterson, owner of Roses Unlimited in Laurens, South Carolina, highlighted “Remembering the Past with Old Garden Roses.” Jim Rodgers, of Nearly Native Nursery in Fayetteville, Georgia, shared his thoughts on the importance of the “Diverse Native Flora in Early American Settlements.” The morning sessions concluded with a luncheon where participants pondered the topics of



*Photo by Susan Hitchcock*

*Pre-conference garden tours of Old Salem led by Matt Noyes*

the day and played a competitive game of “scavenger hunt” by viewing a selection of historic landscape photographs of Salem and the vicinity that were gathered by the in-depth research of Old Salem resident, Mary Audrey Apple. Friday afternoon sessions featured papers on vegetables and fruits in the historic Southern garden. Food historian and author William Woys Weaver explored the value of “Mainstreaming the Heirloom Vegetable: Historical Narratives, Nutritional Bonanzas.” After sharing a plethora of examples of heirloom vegetables, Weaver exclaimed that “Seeds are the common heritage of all mankind. They are the hope of our shared destiny.” Next, David Vernon, of Century Farm Orchards in Reidsville, North Carolina, shared his work with and love of heirloom apples, “fruit with a purpose.”

Friday’s program continued at Reynolda Gardens of Wake Forest University, an estate developed by Richard Joshua Reynolds and Katharine Smith Reynolds in the early twentieth century in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Conference attendees explored the four-acre formal garden, designed by Philadelphia landscape architect, Thomas Sears, under the direction of Katharine Smith Reynolds. Tours of the mansion and its art collection at Reynolda House Museum of American Art were also enjoyed as well as a look at a photographic exhibit entitled *Heroes of Horticulture*, which pictures culturally significant landscapes designated as being at risk by the Cultural Landscape Foundation. Due to showery weather, the evening dinner moved indoors to the museum auditorium.

Session moderator Davyd Foad Hood led Saturday’s program, which presented case studies in Southern garden restorations. The morning opened with a discussion by speakers, Margaret Page Bemiss and Will Rieley, on

*(continued on page 10)*

## Review: "Returning to Our Roots....." (continued from page 9)

"Historic Virginia Gardens: Discoveries and Recoveries". Mrs. Bemiss is the author of a newly-published volume entitled *Historic Virginia Gardens: Preservation Work of The Garden Club of Virginia, 1975-2007*; Will Rieley is the consulting landscape architect to The Garden Club of Virginia. The Garden Club of Virginia has funded significant garden restoration projects in Virginia, including famous sites such as Monticello and Mount Vernon. Next, Gayle DeLashmutt talked about her efforts to preserve and share James Monroe's Oak Hill with the community. She and her husband, Tom, have devoted the past sixteen years to tending "Mr. Monroe's Garden." The final speaker was Sue Burgess, Garden Chair for the Root House Museum and Garden in Marietta, Georgia. She addressed the challenges of recreating a mid-nineteenth-century garden for a middling merchant's home in an often harsh twenty-first-century urban environment.

Davyd Foard Hood closed the conference with an insightful summary of the day's topics and deftly pulled

together the Conference's overall theme for what, by all accounts, was an extraordinary weekend experience for everyone who attended. The Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference once again lived up to its stellar reputation as one of America's premier programs on garden history. This comprehensive and well-organized conference has a wide-ranging appeal, attracting professionals and serious garden history enthusiasts from places well beyond the Southern States, and this year's high attendance despite the current economic climate affirms that the RSGLC is thriving. The Conference Committee begins planning the next event a full two years in advance, and their dedication and hard work are to be highly commended. A final statement of appreciation is due to the members of this ardently devoted group: Mary Audrey Apple, Phil Archer, Kay Bergey, Sally Gant, Sherry Hollingsworth, Davyd Foard Hood, John Larson, Molly Leight, Paula Locklair, Matthew Noyes, and Lee Bynum Schwall.

## 2010 Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting At Mount Vernon

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association will welcome the Southern Garden History Society to George Washington's home for the 2010 Annual Meeting on April 30 – May 2. The gathering promises to be a memorable experience featuring exciting lectures, beautiful gardens, great food, fun activities, and a Mount Vernon Estate like you have never seen before.

The meeting will kick off at 1:00 p.m. on Friday with lectures at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites located on First Street in Alexandria, Virginia. Lance Mallamo, Director of Historic Alexandria, will provide an overview of the rich history of the city of Alexandria, followed by British author Andrea Wulf, who will take us back to the eighteenth century with a lecture based on her popular book, *The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire & the Birth of an Obsession*. Then, with a single bound, we will enter the world of 21<sup>st</sup> century plant collecting in Burma with Dr. John Kress, Research Botanist and Curator for the Smithsonian and author of *The Weeping Goldsmith*. Deborah Bell, Collections Manager with the Smithsonian, will complement Dr. Kress' lecture with further discussion of plant exploration and collecting, including description of her plant introduction of *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*. To conclude the evening we will travel to River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, for an evening of food, drink, and camaraderie.

Saturday morning we depart Alexandria aboard the paddle wheeler *Cherry Blossom* and arrive at the dock of the Mount Vernon Estate. We will tour the pioneer farmer

site, the fully operational grist mill, and George Washington's newly reconstructed distillery, always a popular venue. At the conclusion of lunch we will return to Mount Vernon's new Visitors' Center for two lectures. Therese O'Malley, Associate Dean of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, will discuss evidence of garden and landscape history, how we interpret historical materials, and the relationship of words and images in that process. Lastly, Mount Vernon's own team, archaeologist Esther White and horticulturist Dean Norton will share the exciting results of three years of archeology and research, with a preview of changes to come in the "Upper" or "Pleasure Garden" of the estate. Participants can spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring Mount Vernon's extraordinary new museum and education center. As Mount Vernon closes to the public, society members will gather on the piazza for a reception and entertainment including carriage rides and, for the brave of heart, tethered hot-air balloon rides. We will then stroll over to the Mount Vernon Inn for an enjoyable dinner.

Sunday's optional tour will feature beautiful private gardens in Loudoun County, Virginia. Highlights include Oak Hill, the home of President James Monroe, and lunch at historic Oatlands. The planning committee of the SGHS 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Mount Vernon, Virginia, desires that attendees will be enlightened, educated, and entertained. We invite you to join us for a memorable celebration of great gardens and gardeners.

# Restoration of the Anne Spencer Garden A Second Time Around

By Jane Baber White, Lynchburg, Virginia

The Lynchburg, Virginia, garden of Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer, was restored by the Hillside Garden Club in 1983 and won many accolades at the time. But twenty-five years later, new issues arose and some needed immediate attention. In October 2009, Hillside Garden Club received the prestigious Common Wealth Award of \$10,000 from the Garden Club of Virginia to address these new challenges.

Anne Spencer's garden was the inspiration for much of her poetry and also provided a source of refuge and diversion from the difficulties of being an African-American woman in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The garden, located directly behind the Spencer's Queen Anne-style home on Pierce Street, measures approximately 45' x 150' and evolved in its design over the 50-plus years Anne Spencer tended it. Many pictures remain documenting the different stages of its design, which reflects the cottage-garden style so popular during the period. Anne Spencer's garden cottage "Edankraal," lattice fencing, a pergola, and a grape arbor each break the long, narrow space into garden rooms. A boxwood hedge along the central walkway, and beds of traditional perennials and lilac also help define the bones of the design.



Anne and Edward Spencer stand by the pond, ca. early 1930s. A replica of the bird house will contain the push button speaker system for on-site interpretation. (Anne Spencer House & Garden Museum, Inc)

Since the earlier restoration, some of the new challenges that arose included the deterioration of the original concrete pond, which is the feature of the central axis of the garden. In addition, the pergola and grape arbor, which were built in the 1980s by an Eagle Scout and his troop, were rotting and, in fact, were determined not to be true to the original photographic images. The heavy turned posts used by the

Spencer's on the pergola and arbor are much more important than was realized when the help of the young Boy Scouts was gratefully accepted.

The garden today is a practical interpretation of the garden as revealed in photographs from the 1930s. Now it is a shady garden in part, because of the two large trees, an oak and a pecan, which dominate the sky canopy. The early Spencer garden was a riot of sun-loving, old-fashioned flowers and roses, which today would call for more intense maintenance than is possible with the very limited resources of the Garden Club and its volunteers. Anne Spencer's own roses were salvaged in the 1983, however, and bloom happily in an area that meets their needs for sunshine.

During the summer of 2008, Bill Noble, Projects Director for The Garden Conservancy, assembled a team of experts to evaluate the garden and make recommendations for both its short and long term future. Peter Hatch, Reuben Rainey, and Mary Hughes, representing Monticello and the University of Virginia, gave their time and considerable expertise, and were joined by representatives from Hillside Garden Club and the Board of Directors of the Anne Spencer House and Garden, Inc. for the on-site visit. The successful proposal for the Common Wealth Award included many of the recommendations of the Garden Conservancy team.

The restoration of the charming pond in the garden was the most critical of the new challenges and used almost half of the available funds from the Common Wealth Award. (See accompanying photographs) Spartan junipers will be added to bring additional vertical elements to the garden (See vintage photograph from 1930s), more seasonal flower color will be added to the beds, and several push-button recordings will interpret the garden for visitors. The most expensive item, however, the large turned posts of the deteriorating pergola and grape arbor, will have to await a new funding source.



This 1937 aerial view looking toward the pond shows the Junipers' important vertical accents, which will be added. (Southern Memorial Assoc., Old City Cemetery, courtesy J. White)

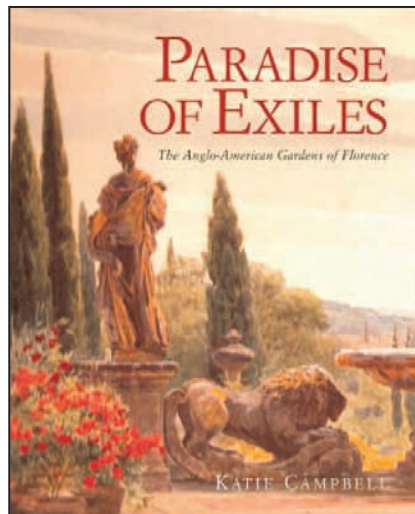
## Book Review

*Paradise of Exiles: The Anglo-American Gardens of Florence*, by Katie Campbell, Lincoln Frances, Limited, hardcover, 176 pages, ISBN: 0711229562; ISBN-13: 9780711229563; list price \$60

The gardens of expatriates have had much the same allure for readers, gardeners of lesser scale, and armchair travelers as the life lived abroad held for those who could indulge themselves, their families, and friends in manorial luxury in foreign climes. France claimed some who sought a refuge from convention—and the conventional, but the greater number by far found elegant havens in Italy, and there, a remarkable colony made Florence and the villas in its countryside their new home. The origins of this engaging social translocation can be traced to the “Grand Tour” undertaken by wealthy, learned Englishmen from the seventeenth century forward. But the direct antecedents of the colony of foreign-born residents and gardeners that flourished around Florence in the opening decades of the twentieth century were more immediate. The writings of John Ruskin were one powerful influence in shaping perceptions and appreciations for a life lived in a landscape rich with the architectural fabric of another, earlier time in history. Those of the American-born writers Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry James, including *The Marble Faun* (1860) and *Portrait of a Lady* (1881), respectively, both embraced and reflected the appealing qualities of place in Italy. While the list of expatriates is long, including writers, painters, sculptors, and aristocrats,—and those who aspired to station, the roster of expatriate gardeners is shorter, and those who created extraordinary gardens are even fewer in number. These men and women and their gardens are the subject of *Paradise of Exiles: The Anglo-American Gardens of Florence*.

This new book, written by Katie Campbell, is a welcome addition to the shelf of Italian garden history, bracketed in its origins by Charles Platt’s *Italian Gardens* (1894), Edith Wharton’s *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* (1904), and Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond’s *The Old Gardens of Italy: How to Visit Them* (1912), among others, and continuing through Shepherd and Jellicoe’s *Italian Gardens of the Renaissance* (1925), down to Georgina Masson’s *Italian Gardens* of 1961, Claudia Lazzaro’s *The Italian Renaissance Garden* (1990), important chapters in Charles Quest-Ritson’s *The English Garden Abroad* (1992) and May Brawley Hill’s *On Foreign Soil: American Gardeners Abroad* (2005), and the critically important monograph, *La Foce: A Garden and Landscape in Tuscany* published in 2001.

Katie Campbell’s book takes as its subject seventeen villas in and around Florence, those who came to own them from the 1890s onwards, and the gardens they made around the handsomely restored, refurbished, and often



remade seats. Her accounts are engaging, illustrated with both black-and-white documentary views, contemporary color photographs, the paintings of George Elgood who saw his own *Italian Gardens* published in 1907, and occasional plans. They are enlivened with anecdote in narratives that focus

on the lives of the expatriates and their garden making, framed by short paragraphs on the history of the estates, prior to the arrival of this group of committed gardening-owners, and briefer discussion of their recent stewardship. Three—I Tatti, Arthur Acton’s La Pietra, and Charles Strong’s La Balze—are owned by American universities. Throughout some 180 pages we see splendid, sometimes haunting images of the overlay of a predominantly English sensibility and Edwardian gardening patterns on the architectural form of Italian gardening traditions and the Florentine landscape. A “floral exuberance” in the form of vines, box parterres overflowing with favored English flowers, and potted plants by the dozens or hundreds even, together with the defining cypress-lined approaches are recurring features in these new-old gardens. Recognition is given also to the important gardens designed by Cecil Ross Pinsent (1884-1963), who collaborated with Geoffrey Scott at the Berenson’s I Tatti, and later created gardens for Lady Sybil Cutting at the Villa Medici, Fiesole, and most famously with her daughter Iris Origo at La Foce.

These exceptional people who adopted Florence and its hillside villas as their own also produced a remarkable literature. Georgina Graham’s *In a Tuscan Garden* of 1902 was followed by George Sitwell’s *On the Making of Gardens* in 1909, the year before he acquired Montegufoni. Next, in 1913, appeared *Our Villa in Italy*, Joseph Lucas’s memoir of his winter estate in San Domenico. Edith Wharton dedicated *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* to another expatriate, Vernon Lee (1856-1935), born Violet Paget, who was celebrated for her intellect, writings published between 1880 and 1925, her rediscovery of the Baroque, and for her influence on a very young Geoffrey Scott (1894-1929). His *The Architecture of Humanism* was a required reading for cultural historians of every stripe for generations. Harold Acton’s *Memoirs of an Aesthete*, published in 1948, is an iconic twentieth-century memoir. So too is Iris

*Origo's Images and Shadows* of 1970.

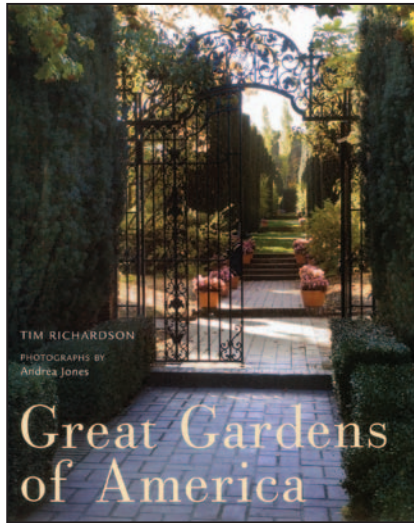
The account of Iris Origo's *La Foce* appears in the closing pages of *Paradise of Exiles*, and rightly so. For the efforts of all that preceded it culminated in her creation of a garden that beggars language for the words to describe

## In Print

***Great Gardens of America***, by Tim Richardson, photographs by Andrea Jones, Frances Lincoln, 304 pages, 300 color photographs, ISBN: 9-780-7112-2886-3; \$50.00, October 2009

*Great Gardens of America* surveys some of the loveliest grounds in America and Canada—from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Quebec to California, from the tropical Southeast to the industrial Midwest. The 25 gardens showcased include 18<sup>th</sup>-century landscaped gardens (Jefferson's *Monticello*); the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century estates of American plutocrats (The Rockefeller's *Kykuit*); the Modernist gardens commissioned by bold patrons such as the Miller and Donnell families for their private residences in Indiana and California; and the very contemporary 'curated' garden which the author terms *garden conceptualism* (*Métis Garden Festival*, Quebec and *Cornerstone Place*, Sonoma, California). Designers include such luminaries as Thomas Jefferson, Fletcher Steele, Beatrix Farrand, Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden, and Jack Lenor Larsen, as well as such present-day plantsmen as Tophér Delaney, Martha Schwartz, and Dan Hinkley.

Author Tim Richardson, a garden historian and critic of contemporary landscape architecture (*Country Life*, *Wallpaper*), brings a discerning and fresh eye to even the most well-known of these sites. Each of his individual essays provides a compelling combination of history and horticulture. Andrea Jones, the *Royal Horticulture Society/ Garden Media Guild* Photographer of the Year (2008), spent over a year photographing the 25 gardens, and produced 300 brilliant photographs.

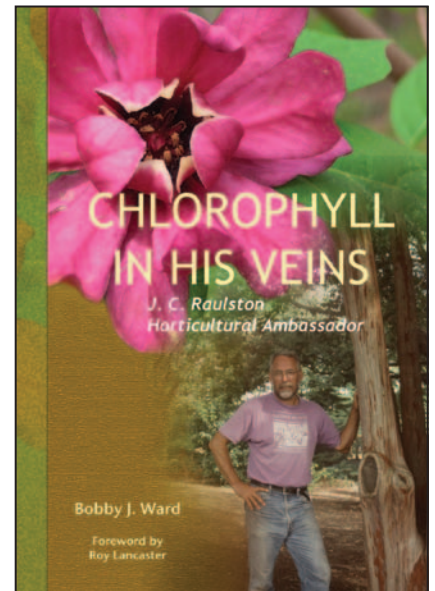


its beauty, sublime classicism, serenity, and its measure as a place in the world beyond the bounds of Italy.

Davyd Foard Hood  
Insinglass  
Vale, North Carolina

NOW AVAILABLE: ***Chlorophyll in His Veins: J. C. Raulston, Horticultural Ambassador***, by Bobby J. Ward, with foreword by Roy Lancaster, Mayapple Press, NC; 352 pages, paperback, with 22 black & white photos, index. ISBN-10: 0-615-32413-4, ISBN 13: 978-0-615-32413-5. \$25

J. C. Raulston was the most important and influential figure in American horticulture in the latter part of the twentieth century. His passion for promoting new plants for landscapes was unmatched. As a teacher at Texas A&M and at North Carolina State University, he gave generously of his time to students, profoundly influencing their lives, altering career paths and personal directions. He saw potential in both plants and students. Against many obstacles, he succeeded in establishing the North Carolina State University Arboretum that now bears his name. In *Chlorophyll in His Veins*, SGHS member **Bobby Ward** offers us an intimate biography, celebrating the life and accomplishments of one of the most-loved gardening personalities.



Copies of the book can be purchased from the author for \$25 plus applicable taxes (NC residents 7.75%) and \$3.50 shipping via media mail. For further shipping details, e-mail Bobby at [biblio@nc.rr.com](mailto:biblio@nc.rr.com) or visit [www.bobbyjward.com](http://www.bobbyjward.com). The author can be contacted by postal mail at: Bobby J. Ward, 930 Wimbeldon Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.

## Members in the News

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** presented its **Trustees Award for Organizational Excellence** to **The Garden Conservancy** in Cold Spring, NY. The group was one of 23 award winners honored by the National Trust during its 2009 National Preservation Conference in Nashville, TN. The special award goes to a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated extraordinary achievement over a long period of time. A full listing of the winners of the National Preservation Awards will appear in the November/December issue of *Preservation Magazine* and online at: [www.PreservationNation.org/awards](http://www.PreservationNation.org/awards).

The work of a long-time member, the late **Dan Franklin**, was cited in the December 2009/January 2010 issue of *Garden and Gun* magazine as helping direct North Carolina landscape architect Chip Callaway towards his highly successful career in historic garden design. The article traces Callaway's interest in plants and gardens from his childhood in Mount Airy (yes, he has designed a garden for Andy Griffith) and details some of his work, particularly at the homes of Richard Jenrette. The garden at Charleston's Roper House, for example, won praise from none other than the Prince of Wales for Callaway's post-hurricane restoration endeavors.

The Camden, SC *Chronicle-Independent* (Wednesday, November 4, 2009) announced the sale of Frogden to society member **Susan E. Lueck**, of Raleigh, NC, as trustee of the Susan E. Lueck Revocable Trust. The ante-bellum

dwelling was built by James and Mary Boykin Chesnut sometime between 1848 and 1853. The celebrated writer, Mary Chesnut, was the author of *A Diary from Dixie*, 1861 to 1865. Mrs. Lueck, who was involved with the renovation of the Chatwood garden in Hillsborough, NC from 1997-2001, was among the audience who enjoyed this year's outstanding annual meeting in Camden. The meeting featured a lecture by Marty Daniels on "Mary Chesnut at Mulberry" and an enchanting visit to Mulberry as part of the optional Sunday Bus Tour.

*Heritage Landscapes* in Charlotte, Vermont has been awarded the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects 2009 Jury's Excellence Award for their work on a renewal plan for **Longue Vue House and Gardens** in New Orleans, Louisiana. A preservation project of The Garden Conservancy, Longue Vue was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. **The Garden Conservancy** has been working with local staff and volunteers to restore the seven-acre historic garden.

*Correction:* The Summer 2009 issue of *Magnolia* listed several properties featured in national publications but failed to mention that Dargan Landscape Architects (**Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan**) designed the gardens of all three properties (Kreis and Sandy Beall, Drs. Bob and Bettina Barnes, and Larry and Lulu Navarre Frye). The articles appeared in *Architectural Digest*, *Traditional Home*, and *Southern Accents*. Hugh Dargan is a life member of the SGHS and was a founding board member.

## SGHS Board Meeting, September 2009

The Board of Directors of the Southern Garden History Society met in Old Salem, NC on September 26, 2009 following the Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes conference. Board members were heartened by the attendance at the RSG&L conference and expressed appreciation for the roster of speakers they had just heard.

Gail Griffin presented the treasurer's report, noting that the society is on a sound financial footing despite the uncertain economy of the past twelve months. Many projects have been brought to fruition over the last three years, including the purchase of the Flora Ann Bynum medals, redesigning the membership brochure, redesigning and improving the Web site, and distributing a new membership poster.

Ken McFarland reported on the status of the Web site, which is being managed by Virginia Hart. This is an important resource for society members, which contains

information about upcoming events as well as interesting archival material, such as our collection of historic southern plant lists. Provided too are links to other sites and blogs.

Peggy Cornett's role in editing *Magnolia* was reviewed and the board expressed its appreciation for her work and the support that Monticello has provided for this publication. Peggy receives assistance from board members Ken McFarland and Davyd Foard Hood in editing the articles.

Dean Norton presented plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting at Mt. Vernon, which is previewed elsewhere in this issue. Future meetings include Baton Rouge, LA in 2011, the Edison and Ford Estates in Fort Meyers, FL the following year; Lynchburg, VA in 2013, and Savannah, GA in 2014.

Submitted by Mollie Ridout, secretary, SGHS

# Mystery Gardens in the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens

Since its creation in 1987, the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens (AAG) has acquired over 80,000 images documenting historic and contemporary gardens throughout the United States. While recent acquisitions are all accompanied by descriptive information, AAG includes images from the early-to-mid twentieth century with little or no identifying information. These "Mystery Gardens" lack basic data such as the garden owner, designer, and street address. Without this fundamental data, these images lose much of their informational value.



AAG's "Mystery Gardens" project aims to rescue these gardens from oblivion so that they can add important information to the overall history of garden design in America for the benefit of researchers and the public today and in the future.

Please visit [www.gardens.si.edu/horticulture/res\\_ed/AAG/mystery/mysterygardens.htm](http://www.gardens.si.edu/horticulture/res_ed/AAG/mystery/mysterygardens.htm) and see if you recognize any of the "Mystery Gardens" (listed according to state) in the Archives of American Gardens. AAG staff would love to hear from you if you can identify any gardens (or have any best guesses). Help us capture America's garden history before it is lost!

The Archives of American Gardens' Web site is [www.gardens.si.edu](http://www.gardens.si.edu).

## The Friends of Old Bulbs Gazette

**Old House Gardens** offers a free monthly e-mail newsletter with tips, news, history, links, sales, and special offers of bulbs too rare for the retail catalog. To subscribe, send an email to: [newsletter@oldhousegardens.com](mailto:newsletter@oldhousegardens.com). Old House Gardens, owned by SGHS member **Scott Kunst**, is America's only mail-order source devoted entirely to heirloom bulbs and is considered an international leader in the preservation of these rare treasures.

## Awards and Scholarships

The **Flora Ann Bynum Award** is the highest award bestowed by the Southern Garden History Society. It is not awarded annually, but only occasionally to recipients who have rendered outstanding service to the society. Nominations may be made at any time by any member. The nomination should contain a cover letter outlining the service, contributions, and accomplishments of the nominee, the names and addresses of at least three other people knowledgeable of the nominee, and any other supporting material the nominator wishes to include. Nominations should be sent to the society President. The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors who must approve the award. The award, if conferred, will usually be presented at the annual meeting.

The title **Honorary Director** (Board of Directors) may be bestowed on individuals who have rendered exceptional service and made significant contributions to the society. The distinction is usually given to individuals who have served as officers or Board members for a number of years or to others whose long term work and devotion have significantly advanced the society's mission, goals, and objectives. Honorary Directors enjoy the rights and privileges described in the by-laws. Nominations for Honorary Director are made to the President by current Board members and are approved by the Board of Directors.

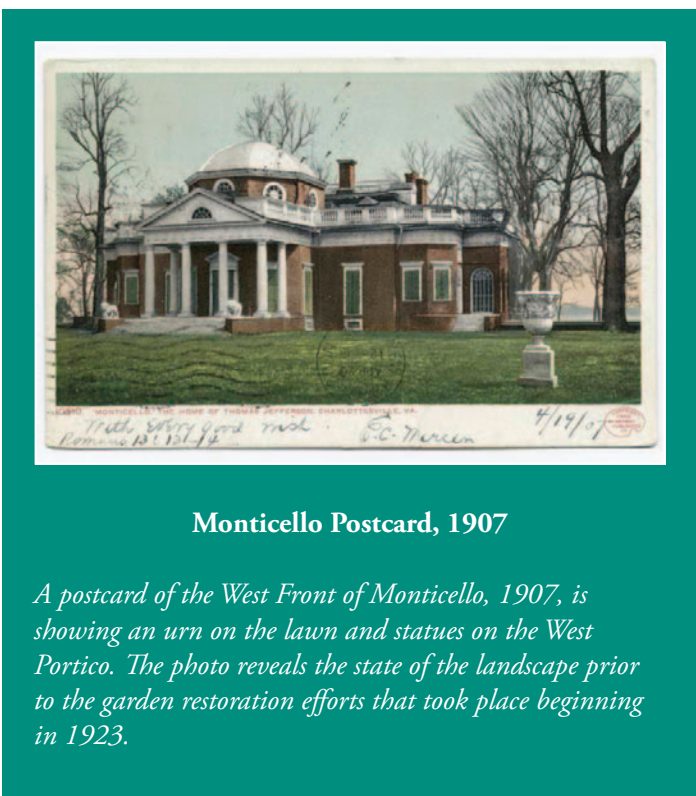
The **Certificate of Merit** is presented to a member or non-member, whose work has advanced the mission and goals of the society. The certificate may be for a body of work or for an individual project including, but not limited to, restoration of a garden, leadership in a project relevant to the society's interest, research, or publications. Requests for Certificates of Merit should be sent to the President and should include a cover letter and supporting documentation. Awarding of certificates will be approved by the Board of Directors and will usually be announced at the annual meeting.

Society **Scholarships** assist students in attending the society's annual meeting and are awarded to bona fide students enrolled in college and university majors relevant to the mission and goals of the society. Previous recipients are ineligible except that students may apply for scholarships once while an undergraduate and once while pursuing a graduate degree. Normally only one scholarship is awarded per annual meeting. The scholarship provides a waiver of registration fees plus \$500 to assist with travel and lodging. Applications, consisting of a letter from the student stating his/her course of study, interest, and career objectives and a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor certifying the student is enrolled in a degree granting program, should be sent to the society President no later than March 1.



Southern Garden History Society  
 P.O. Box 15752  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27113

*Magnolia grandiflora* reproduced by courtesy  
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 Department, University of Virginia Library.



**Monticello Postcard, 1907**

*A postcard of the West Front of Monticello, 1907, is showing an urn on the lawn and statues on the West Portico. The photo reveals the state of the landscape prior to the garden restoration efforts that took place beginning in 1923.*

## Annual Membership Dues

The society's membership year is from **August 1—July 31**. The membership secretary will mail renewal notices in the summer for the 2008-2009 year. Membership categories:

<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Sustainer</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>Institution or Business</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Joint</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>\$10</b>

For more membership information, contact:  
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*Deadline for the submission of articles for the spring issue of Magnolia is February 19, 2010.*

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