NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

This Landscape Design Edition of Scatter Info As We Bloom and Grow highlights two historic gardens that garner top status in the “garden” history of our nation: the gardens at Mt. Vernon, Virginia, of our nation’s first President and the gardens established in our own state on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens to memorialize the 12 ladies who founded the first garden club in America.

President Washington’s gardens at Mount Vernon were the focus of a fund-raising luncheon and lecture held recently in Savannah to benefit The Garden Club of Georgia’s Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Fund. This editor was fortunate to have been able to attend this fund-raiser which was hosted by the Oleander District. The Outstanding Oleanders certainly lived up to their name as the event was truly outstanding in every respect. The luncheon was scrumptious and the lecture was both educational and enjoyable. Thanks go to District Director Marilyn Cheney, Chairman Lisa Hall and Co-chairman Linder Suthers. Thanks also to Lee Dunn for providing such a wonderful speaker.

The Founder’s Memorial Garden is celebrating a major milestone this year – the 75th “Jubilee” Anniversary – and will also be the focus of several fund-raising/celebratory events during 2014, of which you will be hearing about via several other sources. This garden is a real gem that must be seen to fully appreciate its beauty and cultural history. Please take the time to visit this remarkable garden – it is open to the public every day of the year during daylight hours except when reserved for special events.

Jane Hersey, Landscape Design Editor
The Historic Landscape and Garden Grant program of The Garden Club of Georgia was inspired by James Cothran and implemented by Brencie Werner, two friends of the Landscape Design Study Courses that have enriched us all. In February that legacy continued with the fundraising lecture and luncheon at Savannah Technical College featuring Dean Norton, the Director of Horticulture for one of America’s iconic landscapes, George Washington’s beautiful estate of Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon was Washington’s passion, and occupied his thoughts even while commanding the Continental Army. He often spent time at the front composing letters to his estate manager instructing him on the care and maintenance of the gardens in his absence.

Today, Dean Norton is the estate manager who tends George Washington’s gardens with a passion only matched by the first President. As Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon, Dean has spent his thirty-six year career directing the planting and maintenance of this historic American landscape. He began working at Mount Vernon at the very impressionable age of sixteen, and was inspired to continue his education at Clemson University in the field of horticulture. Upon graduation in 1977 he returned to Mount Vernon and has spent the last thirty-six years mastering the art of eighteenth-century gardening practices, “applying the latest plant science management techniques to horticulture in a historic setting.”

Norton’s lecture entitled “Welcome Home George Washington” was an informative and entertaining look at George Washington’s landscape and gardens with particular emphasis on its historic preservation and the most recent restoration of the pleasure garden. Documentation for the restoration came from many historical sources including a plan of Mount Vernon drawn by Samuel Vaughan, an Englishman who visited Mount Vernon in 1787.
Washington had his own ideas for his vision of Mount Vernon, which were greatly influenced by English landscape designer Batty Langley, who advocated a more naturalistic style for gardens as opposed to the formally constricted gardens of the seventeenth and early eighteen centuries. Washington re-designed Mount Vernon to incorporate features found in English gardens of the period such as tree-lined serpentine walks, ha-has, a deer park, groves and natural woodland areas. Although Washington never traveled outside the United States his most enduring compliment to his successful implementation of his vision came from a visitor to the plantation who said “In a word, the garden, the plantations, the whole upkeep, proves that a man born with natural taste may divine the beautiful without ever having seen its model.”

1 Dean Norton resume
2 www.mountvernon.org/gardens
The following pictures were taken during this editor’s visit to the gardens at Mount Vernon while attending a National Garden Clubs convention in Washington, DC. The gardens have a variety of plant material and offer both formal and informal areas. And, the gardens include vegetables, fruits, and berries as well as flowers, trees, and shrubs – a perfect example of an ideal garden.
A note from Daniel J. Nadenicek,
Dean of the College of Environment and Design at UGA:

HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY! The Founders Memorial Garden at the University of Georgia in Athens is embarking on its 75th Anniversary year and we invite you to be a part of it by planning a visit. In 1939 this magical garden was designed by Dean Hubert Bond Owens as a tribute to the twelve founding women of the Garden Club movement in America and the first chapter recognized by the National Garden Club. It remains a tribute to those women today, as well as to the veterans of WWII. In essence, it remains a tribute to all who have sacrificed to make the world a beautiful and better place. We want you to join us in the year-long celebration.

As you may know, the College of Environment and Design at UGA is responsible for the perpetual stewardship of this site honored on the National Register of Historic Places. Students, faculty, staff and the general public continue to use this treasured place for educational and social gatherings, as well as for relaxing and enjoying nature. We all agree that we must care for it, so that future generations can enjoy its splendor and learn from its important cultural history.

Please come, one and all! Whether for a creative experience with fellow gardeners or for one of our planned events, this is a perfect year to reacquaint yourself with “Your Garden.” The garden is free to all visitors, except for special events as noted, and is open every day of the year during daylight hours.

We hope you will come visit us soon and help share in the excitement and beauty of the Founders Memorial Garden in Athens, Georgia!

P.S. Contact us for garden tours, parking details, or more information about the events calendar and we will be happy to help you. A list of contacts follows on the next page.
Founders Memorial Garden UGA Contacts:
To assist you further, the following individuals can help with any questions and/or services at the Founders Memorial Garden and Lumpkin House (325 S. Lumpkin St., Athens):

For House or Garden event reservations
   Professor David Nichols, Director of House & Garden: 706-542-4948 or dnichols@uga.edu

To schedule a Tour or special Parking arrangements
   Maureen O’Brien, Curator of the House & Garden: 706-542-8972 or mcobrien@uga.edu

For Historical Information
   Professor John C. Waters, Historic Preservation, Emeritus: 706-542-9006 or jcwaters@ugs.edu

For brochures, posters, news and promotions
   Melissa Gogo, Director of Public Relations: 706-542-0700 or mgogo@uga.edu

To donate to the Garden or for Jubilee tickets
   Stephanie Crockatt, Director of Development and Giving: 706-542-4727 or crockatt@uga.edu

Check out the history of the Founders Memorial Garden on The Garden Club of Georgia’s website under About Us. You can also visit the Founders Garden Facebook page to view photos of the garden. The following photos are from the Facebook page.
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