



Le Journal des Amis



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy year at Magnolia Mound! BREC continues to make necessary repairs to the historic house, and plans for repairs and updates to other buildings. (More on these projects later). The Friends continue to seek and attract new members. If you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a member, please join!

The Friends sponsor so many wonderful events on the property, and they appeal to all ages. Our first free Sunday program continues to expand and grow with insightful programs. The upcoming events include Pumpkin Patch and Creole Christmas. If you have not brought your children and grandchildren to either of these events, this year is the perfect opportunity.

Recently, on Friday, June 19, the exhibits committee sponsored a Juneteenth lecture and meal. This was attended by approximately 90 people from our community. Dr. Terrell Johnson of Southern University, and Reginald Delpit of the Chicken Shack, gave an informative talk on the history of the South Baton Rouge neighborhood and community, which is adjacent to the museum property. The descendants of enslaved persons from Magnolia Mound settled South Baton Rouge, and many of their descendants remain residents of that community today.

We are looking forward to a very busy fall season at Magnolia Mound, and we welcome you and your families to join us!

Donna Wright
President

End of Summer Gardening at Magnolia Mound

Article by Camm Morton, Advanced Master Gardener

Summer is winding down at Magnolia Mound, and it has been a good one in the kitchen garden. Now we are turning the corner toward fall, and there is a lot to look forward to — our Fourth Annual Pumpkin Picking on First Free Sunday in October, a fall garden to show off, and the first real season for our new cash-crops demonstration plot.



THE KITCHEN GARDEN

Our summer garden held up well. Tomatoes did what we hoped they would do — the early start we talked about in the spring paid off, and we had a strong set on the nights that stayed between 60 and 70 degrees. Peppers came in heavy across all five varieties, including tabasco and paprika for drying. Okra kept producing right through the hottest weeks. Corn, green beans, eggplant, and sweet potatoes all had a good run.

The herb border did its usual quiet work — basil, sweet marjoram, dill, oregano, Spanish oregano, thyme, tarragon, and sage — most of it headed for the drying racks.

Thursday mornings, 9 to 11, weather permitting, our Master Gardener crew is out there. Come see us. Bring your gloves if you'd like to help out.

THE CASH-CROPS DEMONSTRATION PLOT

The news this year is out past the kitchen garden, in the cash-crops demonstration plot. What started in 2023 as two 75-foot rows of Magnolia Mound sugar cane has grown, year by year, into a proper demonstration of the



The demonstration plot: sugar cane, indigo, and tobacco, with the live oaks behind.

four crops that built this part of Louisiana — sugar cane, indigo, cotton, and tobacco.

Sugar cane. Four varieties are growing side by side. Magnolia Mound cane now runs a continuous 300 planted feet across four 75-foot rows, so a visitor can finally see a mature heirloom stand at scale. Alongside it we have three more varieties from the LSU Sugar Research Station: Cuban, Thailand, and LA Stripe — the purple and gold striped variety that is a showstopper at harvest. You can walk down the row and see how each one differs in height, stalk color, and leaf.

Indigo. *Indigofera suffruticosa*, sometimes called bush indigo or anil, is actually native to Louisiana. It was one of Louisiana's earliest cash crops before sugar took over. Every pair of blue jeans until the late 1890s was colored with dye from a plant like this one. When German chemist Adolf von Baeyer's synthetic indigo hit the market in 1897, the natural crop was gone within twenty years — but the color on your jeans is still, chemically, exactly what came out of these plants.

Tobacco. Two plots give visitors a look at a leaf crop most people have only seen in photographs. Ours flowered beautifully this summer — but a commercial grower would never let it get that far. It is called topping, and it is one



Continued on page 8

FRIENDS OF MAGNOLIA MOUND *Petite Antiques* FORUM

27TH ANNUAL
PETITE ANTIQUES FORUM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2027

Mark your calendar for the 27th Annual Petite Antiques Forum, a special day of learning, discovery, and appreciation of history, architecture, antiques, and the decorative arts.

This year's Forum will feature a guest lecture, lunch, and visits to Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville and two exceptional homes, Woodland Plantation and Highland Plantation near St. Francisville. This is a rare opportunity to step inside private residences and discover their architecture, collections, furnishings, and stories.

For 27 years, the Petite Antiques Forum has brought together those who share a love of history and the decorative arts. Whether you are a longtime participant or joining us for the first time, the Forum offers a wonderful opportunity to learn something new, explore remarkable places, and spend the day with others who share these interests.

The Petite Antiques Forum is also an important fundraiser for the Friends of Magnolia Mound Museum, helping support our work on behalf of Magnolia Mound and its collections.

**SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US
FOR THIS SPECIAL 27TH YEAR!**

Program and registration details
will be available soon..



Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville. One of three stops on the 27th Annual Friends of Magnolia Mound Petite Antiques Forum.

Our Vision • Our Mission

Article by Ashley Freeman, Museum Director, Magnolia Mound

It has been a busy and productive summer at the Museum! We are excited to share several updates and accomplishments as we continue building a strong foundation for the future.

The Museum recently adopted new mission and vision statements, along with core values that will help guide our work. As part of our AAM reaccreditation, we were asked to develop an updated strategic plan within five years. We are now in the final stages of developing a five-year strategic plan that will not only meet this requirement, but also help guide the Museum as we revamp our interpretation and prioritize important site projects.

Visitor engagement has remained strong throughout the year. So far, we have welcomed 2,901 visitors through American Cruise Lines bus tours, and we look forward to welcoming even more visitors through the end of the year. Our Free First Sunday program also continues to attract engaged audiences and many first-time visitors each month. June was particularly strong, with 119 attendees. The variety of topics and presentation formats has helped spark interest among an increasingly broad audience.



Behind the scenes, staff continue to develop and implement improved systems for maintaining the grounds and facilities. At the end of July, Jennifer, Ja'Nadius, and I tackled a long-overdue project by cleaning beneath both the front and back porches of the Historic House, where years of accumulated debris had collected. *(Photo at left)*

We remain dedicated to getting the site back on track and providing the care, attention, and stewardship it deserves. With our strategic planning underway and continued growth in visitor engagement, we are excited about the Museum's future and all that lies ahead!

MAGNOLIA MOUND: MUSEUM + HISTORIC SITE

MISSION

To preserve and interpret this historic site, shaped by Louisiana's plantation system, and engage the public with educational programs on the diverse experiences and cultural contributions of those who lived and labored here – free and enslaved – shaping its Creole heritage and the landscape of Baton Rouge.

VISION

We are committed to creating a welcoming space, partnering with our community, and inspiring visitors to explore the past, reflect on the present, and imagine the future.

CORE VALUES

Stewardship of Place and History

We honor and protect historic buildings, landscapes, and material culture as irreplaceable records of the past, ensuring they are preserved responsibly for future generations.

Inclusive Historical Interpretation

We commit to interpreting history with accuracy and depth, centering the diverse voices and lived experiences of all who lived and labored on the site.

Public Education and Meaningful Engagement

We believe history should be accessible. Through educational programs and interpretation, we foster curiosity, dialogue, and a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and its ongoing impact today.

Revisions adopted May 2026

Juneteenth Celebration at the Mound *Article by Lou Duplantier*



(Left to right) Lisa Delpit, Shawne Smith, Dr. Terrell Johnson, Dr. Joyce Jackson, Jamie Simms Price

On Friday, June 19, 2026, Magnolia Mound Museum hosted its first Juneteenth Event, celebrating Black history of South Baton Rouge. Juneteenth is a national holiday first founded in Texas to honor the day that Union Troops brought the Emancipation Proclamation to Galveston in 1865. Though the Proclamation had been signed two years prior, it was not until this day that the end of enslavement was enforced in the area. African Americans across the country have celebrated this occasion as “Freedom Day” ever since.

The event at Magnolia Mound was incredibly successful, bringing together a packed room of people to honor the long legacy of education and unity in South Baton Rouge’s African American communities. Acclaimed singer, Reginald Collins, opened the event, singing the Black National Anthem. The collection of voices enlivened the space of the Visitor’s Center that quickly filled with over 100 people, many of whom were visiting Magnolia Mound for the first time. As they settled in, Reginald Delpit III shared his reflections on his own family lineage as the chefs and owners of the oldest operating restaurant in South Baton Rouge, The Chicken Shack. He explained how this family business has continued throughout generations and how he was trained at the foot of his grandparents to manage the restaurants today. Lisa Delpit, distinguished leader, author, and educator, was present to support and affirm her family’s story. The Delpit family is a long-standing pillar of the community, and a well-known name for the incredible legacy of original Chicken Shack owner and civil-rights pioneer, Thomas Delpit, and his son, Joseph “Joe” Delpit, who became the first Black councilman to serve the City of Baton Rouge. He was then elected as a State Representative in 1975 and 1980, retiring in 1992.

Following the heartwarming tales of The Chicken Shack, Terrell Johnson, a prestigious history professor at Southern University, shared his immense knowledge on the origins and significance of the area. With the passion of a sermon and details of a lecture, Dr. Johnson explained to the audience how the acres of Magnolia Mound would become the current neighborhoods of South Baton Rouge. Born, raised, and living in South Baton Rouge himself, Dr. Johnson spoke academically and sentimentally about the place he calls home. He shared the educational impact of the area, centering

on the famous McKinley High School and its early founders such as Dr. J.M. Frazier. In 1907, Dr. Frazier started the Hickory Street School which would grow into McKinley High School. McKinley was the first high school created for African Americans in East Baton Rouge Parish. Being one of the only schools for Black students in the entire state, youth traveled from as far as Opelousas and Natchez, Mississippi to attend. McKinley’s first graduating class was in 1916, with four students that became the first African American high school graduates in Louisiana. Audience members were engaged and inspired following Dr. Johnson’s presentation, and many inquired about ways they could further learn about both Magnolia Mound and South Baton Rouge.

The Juneteenth event ended with delicious catering from The Chicken Shack, donated by current Friends of Magnolia Mound Board President Donna Wright. Children were entertained with a quilting craft put together by the Education staff, and the room was filled with community members connecting and reminiscing. Duplantier descendants Lou Duplantier and Jamie Simms Price, who created and led the event, shared their ongoing work to establish a memorial to the enslaved community at Magnolia Mound Museum. They hope to continue the tradition of a Juneteenth event as an annual celebration for Black freedom on Magnolia Mound’s grounds.



Upcoming Programs at Magnolia Mound

SEPTEMBER 6 – WORKING LANDSCAPES: GARDENS, FIELDS, AND SWAMPS - Free Event

Explore how people in the past worked with the land and used natural resources in creative and practical ways.

FEATURED LEARNING STATIONS:

- **Cash Crop Table** – Learn about crops such as cotton, indigo, and sugar cane, and discover how they were grown, processed, and used. Visitors can also try their hand at drop spinning to transform fiber into thread.
- **Fur Table** – Explore the back swamp landscapes of Louisiana plantations and learn about the regional fur trade. Test your knowledge with a hands-on “Animal Guess Who?” activity featuring real furs and pelts.



- **Kitchen Garden Table** – Discover the herbs, vegetables, and other plants commonly grown in household gardens for cooking, medicine, and everyday survival. Try out a few garden-themed sorting games.

SEPTEMBER 19 – HANDS-ON HISTORY 10-11:30 A.M. / AGES: 6-12 / \$10 PER CLASS

This new program invites families to discover the past through immersive hands-on crafts. The program starts with a specialized walking tour of the site's historic buildings, including the 230-year-old historic house and enslaved workers' cabin. A themed presentation and demonstration will follow. Each registered child will make a craft to take home.

SEPTEMBER 19 – AFRICAN DRUMS 10-11:30 a.m. / Ages: 6-12 / \$10 per class

OCTOBER 22 & 29 – CANDLELIGHT & MEMORY: MOURNING TRADITIONS IN EARLY LOUISIANA 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. / \$10 per person

Step into the past as evening falls and discover how families in early 19th-century Louisiana honored their loved ones. By candlelight, explore the customs, spaces, and stories of mourning that once shaped daily life within these walls. This guided tour offers a thoughtful look at remembrance, tradition, and community in another era. Explore the grounds to learn more about prevalent diseases, medical practices, and herbal remedies of the time. If you're unable to attend the guided tour, then you can do a walking tour for the price of regular admission.

To register: webtrac.brec.org

More info: magnoliamound@brec.org 225-343-4955



AT MAGNOLIA MOUND

Sunday, October 4 from 1 to 4 PM

Pumpkins, Honey, Demonstrations, Exhibits, & More!

This year at the annual Pumpkin Event, visitors can explore sugar cane and the historic cane grinder, archaeology, historic tools exhibit, weaving exhibit, and early Louisiana cooking. The Slave Cabin, Overseer's House, and the Historic House will be open for visitors, too.

Children will have plenty of fun things to do, including:

- Corn husk doll making
- Art activities
- Weaving
- Special bee crafts

Visitors can learn about honey bees, their important role in the gardens and landscape, and how honey is produced. Magnolia Mound honey will also be available for purchase.

The event celebrates the work of the Master Gardeners of East Baton Rouge, whose dedication helps keep Magnolia Mound's Kitchen and Crop Gardens growing, productive, and educational.

Come spend the afternoon at Magnolia Mound, pick out a pumpkin, explore the gardens, discover something new about the site's history, and enjoy activities for the entire family.

Proceeds from pumpkins and honey at the event help support Magnolia Mound's Kitchen and Crop Gardens and the Friends of Magnolia Mound.

Free admission to the house and grounds!



**Come early
to pick a
BIG
ONE!**



**Bring the kids and the grandkids.
Picking begins at 1:00 PM and the
best pumpkins go first.**

Putting the Magnolia Mound Cane Grinder Back in Service

Article by Babeth Schlegel

For years, Magnolia Mound's cast-iron cane grinder has stood unused. Now, thanks to an expanding crop garden and the help of several dedicated individuals, the grinder may soon be put back to work.



Under the leadership of Camm Morton, head of the Master Gardeners, Magnolia Mound's crop garden has continued to grow. Today, the garden includes rows of sugarcane, white and brown cotton, tobacco, and indigo. The garden is more than a landscape feature. It is part of Magnolia Mound's role as an educational site, helping visitors better understand the crops that were grown and the people whose knowledge and labor sustained plantation life.

As the crop garden and its educational interpretation expanded, we began looking for a way to make the cane grinder operational. With sugarcane growing in the crop garden and the grinder ready to be tested, we hope to demonstrate how this type of equipment operates during the Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, October 4.

An unexpected connection helped move the project forward. During a visit to the West Baton Rouge Museum to view its tools collection as part of our research for the Pigeonnier exhibit, I noticed a cane grinder similar to ours and asked whether they knew someone who might be able to evaluate our cane grinder. Museum staff put me in touch with Melvin Wheat, who has assisted them with their own grinder.

Melvin met with Camm and me at Magnolia Mound to examine the grinder. After looking it over, he determined that the mechanism primarily needed to be loosened and made operational again. Melvin generously offered to do the work if we could arrange to have the heavy grinder lifted onto his trailer.

Kevin Langley, who had the equipment needed to lift the grinder, joined Melvin and Camm to move it safely onto Melvin's trailer. After completing the work, Melvin returned the grinder to Magnolia Mound with the help of Jay Thompson.

Thanks to Melvin Wheat, Jay Thompson, Camm Morton, and Kevin Langley, the cane grinder is now back in its location and ready for the next step: testing it with sugarcane from our crop garden. Kevin has also offered to locate an appropriate wooden pole that can be used to rotate the grinder.

The cast-iron cane grinder is a post-mounted roller mill designed to crush sugarcane and extract the juice used in syrup production. It retains its primary structural elements, including the rollers, housing, and adjustment mechanism. A cast marking may indicate a date of 1896.

The grinder is also intended to support the interpretation being developed for the Pigeonnier exhibit, particularly its focus on tools and labor. At Magnolia Mound, interpreting a tool such as the cane grinder means telling more than how it worked. It also means discussing the people who performed the work.

Magnolia Mound is dedicated to telling the whole story of the site. Plantation agriculture depended on the knowledge, skills, and labor of enslaved people. The crop garden, historic tools, collections, buildings, and landscape all provide opportunities to help visitors understand that history and the lives of the people who lived and worked here.

Bringing the grinder back into working condition has been a wonderful collaborative effort. More importantly, it is another way Magnolia Mound can use its landscape, collections, and historic resources to educate visitors and tell a more complete story of the site and the people connected to it.



Magnolia Mound Guest Column

My name is Marie Blanquinque, and I am a Ph.D. student in U.S. History at Louisiana State University under the supervision of Dr. Bardes.

I have written an article about the fascinating life of Constance Rochon Joyce Duplantier and am currently in the process of reviewing and developing my research. I would be more than delighted to share any updates with you.

If you would like to read the full article please email me at Marie Blanquinque at Marie.blanquinque@lsu.edu or mblanq1@lsu.edu

My research focuses on nineteenth-century Louisiana, and more specifically on the policing of public spaces and leisure in nineteenth-century New Orleans. I have also long been passionate about recovering the experiences of women throughout history and examining the social and legal constraints of their times. Hence my research into the life of Constance.

As an intern at Magnolia Mound Museum since January, I was given the opportunity to explore these questions through Constance's story. What drew me to Constance was the complexity of her life. Born in Mobile, in British West Florida in 1766, to Louis Augustin Augustus Rochon and Marie Louise Fievre, Constance, or Constantia Rochon would never have predicted that she would become a major economic actor and accomplished businesswoman in the life of Magnolia Mound Plantation following the passings of her two husbands, John Joyce and Armand Duplantier. Widowed twice, she emerged in the records as the manageress of the property, administering her late spouses' affairs, and navigating the complex plantation economy. At Magnolia Mound, I have also been researching the intimate and economic relationships that transformed the plantation between the death of her first husband, John Joyce, in 1798 and her own death in 1841. The article that I have been writing sheds light on how succession and property law could restrain and enable Constance's agency while recognizing the familial relationships of enslaved communities.

What I find most revealing about her is that the surviving archives do not give us a complete portrait of her. Portraits of Constance Rochon have not survived. Her features, like many aspects of her inner world, have not been preserved in the archives and therefore remain beyond our grasp. Through the fragments of the archives her presence emerges, one inscribed in acts of negotiation and control.

Overall, I hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of women and enslaved people in nineteenth-century Louisiana.

Digging Into History

Article by Craig Rowley

Our summer history camp came back strong this year with a theme called "Dig Into History" – a fun and engaging exploration of archaeology. Campers got to learn about several archaeological sites around the world. Let's dig into the highlights of our 46th year of summer camp at the Mound.

Each week our "History Explorers" or "History Littles" took a journey through a variety of archaeological sites. The kids got to discover such places as Stonehenge, the Great Pyramids, Machu Picchu, and many more. It was wonderful to see our campers take what they learned and express themselves through art projects and activities related to the subject matter.

We were especially fortunate to have an actual archaeologist on hand to speak with the kids. Dennis Jones joined us weekly to share his firsthand account of working as the principal archaeologist during the extensive archaeological excavation of the Chatsworth Plantation. To go along with these visits, the kids got to become honorary archaeologists and dig for artifacts in our "Artifact or Fiction?" program where we set up makeshift dig sites. With Dennis on hand to assist us, the kids got to unearth some interesting items from the past. We appreciate Dennis for the gift of his time this summer.

We had a great turnout this year. Our enrollment numbers saw a significant jump from the past couple of years. With only 200 roster spots available, we had 94% enrollment including 5 weeks which were sellouts! The response from campers and parents has been overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to another great year in 2027.



Moai Statue Drawing



Machu Picchu Llama Finger Puppets



Stonehenge: Mixed Media Art

Magnolia Museum & Historic Site is a member of these organizations



American
Alliance of
Museums



Become a member, renew or donate today!

SUPPORTER - \$50

Name on donor page
One free tour
20% discount in gift shop
Invited to Le Salon Duplantier
E-newsletter
Advance notice of events

CONTRIBUTOR - \$100

Name on donor page
Two free tours
20% discount in gift shop
Invited to Le Salon Duplantier
E-newsletter
Advance notice of events

PATRON - \$250

Name on donor page
Four free tours
20% discount in gift shop
Invited to Le Salon Duplantier
E-newsletter
Advance notice of events

MAGNOLIA CIRCLE - \$500

Name on donor page
Six free tours
20% discount in gift shop
Inside Magnolia Mound book
Invited to Le Salon Duplantier
E-newsletter
Advance notice of events



DUPLANTIER SOCIETY

\$1,000
Honored at Le Salon Duplantier
Name on donor page
Free private tour for you plus ten guests

20% discount in gift shop
Inside Magnolia Mound book
Printed newsletter mailed to you
Advance notice of events

**CONSTANCE JOYCE
DUPLANTIER CIRCLE**

\$2,500
Honored at Le Salon Duplantier
Name on donor page
Two tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum

Free private tour for you plus ten guests
20% discount in gift shop
Inside Magnolia Mound book
Printed newsletter mailed to you
Advance notice of events

**ARMAND ALLARD
DUPLANTIER CIRCLE**

\$5,000+ Honored at Le Salon Duplantier
Name on donor page
Four tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum
Free private tour for you plus ten guests
20% discount in gift shop
Inside Magnolia Mound book
Printed newsletter mailed to you
Advance notice of events

Friends of Magnolia Mound

MISSION STATEMENT

To assist in the preservation and interpretation of the historic house and site as a demonstration of early plantation life in south Louisiana for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations and to procure and manage the Collection

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Friends, working with BREC, the Museum Director and staff, assist in implementing the master plan for the structures, landscaping, future additions and changes to Magnolia Mound.

BREC owns and operates Magnolia Mound. All of the furniture, decorative items and artifacts are owned and cared for by the Friends. This collection brings to life the interiors of the house and other buildings for the community, school groups, and tourists.

The Friends provide advisory and financial assistance for the kitchen garden, which is part of the educational tour at the Mound. Produce from the garden is used in the cooking demonstrations in the kitchen building.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS THIS MISSION

Friends of Magnolia Mound

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna Wright – *President*
Sandy Arst – *President elect*
Susan Eaton – *Past President*
Carey Cox – *Treasurer/ Secretary*
John Turner –
Board Member-at-Large
Karen Zobrist –
Board Member-at-Large

Lou Duplantier
Adelaide Russo
Larry Ruth
Barbara SoRelle Bacot
Cheryl Stromeyer
Liz Treppendahl
Catherine White

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Susan Wilder
Ashley Freeman, *Museum Director, Magnolia Mound*
Babeth Schlegel, *Executive Director/Collections Manager, Friends of Magnolia Mound*



*The Friends & BREC -
partners in preservation
for over 50 years.*

Questions? Please send an email to friendsofmagnoliamount@gmail.com or call Babeth Schlegel at (225) 421-3162

Friends of Magnolia Mound is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

1-Year Membership (For a renewal, the year's membership will begin when the current membership expires.)

Name _____ (as you would like it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Check Membership Level: ☐ Supporter \$50 ☐ Contributor \$100 ☐ Patron \$250 ☐ Magnolia Circle \$500

☐ Duplantier Society \$1,000 ☐ Constance Joyce Duplantier Circle \$2,500 ☐ Armand Allard Duplantier Circle \$5,000

I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____. I prefer to charge \$ _____ to type of card _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ / _____ CVV number _____

Signature: _____

Make check payable to: Friends of Magnolia Mound
Mail to: Friends of Magnolia Mound,
P.O. Box 1254, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1254

*You can also charge your membership
securely online, all major cards are accepted.*
friendsofmagnoliamount.org

Continued from page 1

of the more interesting techniques in old-time farming. As soon as the flower buds appear, the grower pinches them off. That flips the plant from reproductive mode (making seed) to vegetative mode (making leaf). Root growth surges, and since nicotine is made in the roots and carried up to the leaves, the leaves accumulate more of it. Sugars and nutrients that would have gone into seed go into leaf instead. The leaves grow larger, thicker, heavier, and with more body — exactly what a cured-leaf grower is after. Then come the suckers — side shoots that pop out where each leaf meets the stem, trying to take over from the removed flower. Those have to come off too, or they undo the whole exercise. We let our flower because we are demonstrating what the plant looks like in nature, not producing a crop.



Cotton — white and brown. In one column we planted the familiar white cotton; in the next, Mississippi Brown cotton — a heirloom naturally colored variety that fluffs out in a copper-tan. Planted side by side, the color difference is impossible to miss, and it makes the point about how much variety once grew on Louisiana farms.



One interesting note: you might see some unopened bolls in the plot that have been flagged. Cotton is self-pollinating, but the two varieties can still cross if pollen gets

(At left) White cotton, open on the stalk and Mississippi Brown — the same crop, a very different color.



A bagged and flagged boll — the pollination-control step in action

carried between them, and once they cross, next year's seed will not run true. So before each flower opens, I slip a small jewelry bag over the bud, tie it off, and flag it. The flower opens, self-pollinates inside the bag, and I know the seed from that boll is pure. It is a small step that keeps the White and the Mississippi Brown genetically clean for next year's planting.

The whole plot is laid out on 25-foot cells — 20 planted feet plus a 5-foot walkway — with seven-foot row spacing and a dedicated demonstration walk between Rows 2 and 3. In plain English, you can now walk into the middle of the plot, stand between sugar cane and cotton, and see how a Louisiana planter would have organized his fields on a much larger scale. Come fall we will have sugar cane to juice again for Creole Christmas, cotton bolls open on the stalk, and tobacco leaves cured for display.

VISIT THE GARDENS AT THE MOUND!

Come walk the garden this fall. Pick a pumpkin on October 4th. Bring the grandchildren. Walk the demonstration plot and see the four crops that built Louisiana growing side by side. That is what we built it for.

The Master Gardeners are in the garden Thursdays, 9 to 11, weather permitting, and we are always happy to give a guided tour. Happy gardening.

Three Easy Ways to Renew Your Membership, Join, or Make a Donation.

1. Use the membership form on page 7 of this newsletter
2. Scan the QR code to visit our website at friendsofmagnoliamound.org
3. Call us at (225) 421-3162



Whether you are renewing or considering joining for the first time, your membership helps ensure that Magnolia Mound remains a place where Louisiana's early history is preserved and shared with future generations.

Donations also play a vital role in advancing the mission of the Friends of Magnolia Mound. Thank you.

