



Le Journal des Amis



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I enjoy reading our newsletter, “Le Journal des Amis”. I’m always finding out something new, whether it’s an interesting fact about a piece in our collection, about one of our dedicated volunteers, or just an historical tidbit I did not know before.

The articles and photographs highlight our efforts and accomplishments, but also remind us of how much hard work and dedication it takes to keep our collection, garden and grounds repaired, restored, polished and ready for display.

Every year membership makes up almost 1/2 of our budget. Please see page 4 for a breakdown of our budget. Without you, our extensive collection and all the stories these artifacts help tell through tours and programs would not exist. As we begin our new fiscal year, we also begin our major, annual membership drive. We hope those whose memberships are up for renewal during this time will join us once again to help us continue our mission. Your contribution to this organization is so needed and so appreciated.

I’m proud of our newsletter and I’m proud to be a part of this organization. I hope you are too and that the Friends can count on your continued support in keeping history alive at Magnolia Mound.

Thank you.

Donna Mitchell, *President*

French Wallpaper

Babeth Schlegel (editor Margaret Lawhon Schott)



The wallpaper in the dining room serves as a visual example of the Greek-Roman influences so popular in the early 19th Century. Reveillon’s “Les Syphildes” design known as an “arabesque,” was based on the newly discovered Roman wall frescoes at Pompeii and Herculaneum. Early Americans looked to the classical for decorative arts as well as for ideas of democracy for the young United States.

When we look at objects, we can observe them from different angles: style, function, and the process required to create them. We often study the style and function, but overlook the designers themselves and the steps involved in making these items we treasure – how they came into existence in the first place. Objects from the past would not be imbued with the values they hold for us today were it not for the combined skills of the artist who first envisioned the object, the “maker” who created it, and the entrepreneurship of the manufacturer. Usually, history preserves the name of the artist who conceived the idea, and/or the manufacturer. Unfortunately, history has forgotten so many key players, the makers whose hands crafted what we treasure so much today.

In about 1994, Pat Bacot decided to grace the walls of the Duplantier dining room at Magnolia Mound with the reproduction of “Les Sylphides,” a wallpaper by the Frenchman Jean Baptiste Réveillon circa 1794. As Bacot discovered through a thorough wall analysis, this room was originally wallpapered, but sadly no fragments of the original were found. We

should note that historically the French and the English engaged in vigorous competition in the mastering of wallpaper design and creation. As Christine Speare noted in her thesis, “*French wood-block printed décors produced from the mid-to-late eighteenth century through the nineteenth century created an impression of a highly ornate and expensive decorative art, only attainable to the most elite of the American South.*”

To give some historical perspective, in 1787 the French government stopped taxing the country’s wallpaper exports, making it possible for the American market to import the finest French wallpapers at more affordable prices. European wallpapers at that time were printed using wood blocks. The French improved this technique and mastered the process. Jean Baptiste Réveillon became the premier figure in eighteenth-century wallpaper design and introduced many new innovations in printmaking. In 1755, he opened a workshop in Paris for wallpaper-making. Subsequently, he managed a factory employing more than three hundred people, where he divided the labor into organized skilled sections:

Continued on page 4

WELCOME AMY LAMBERT

The Mound's new Volunteer Coordinator and Assistant Educator is Amy Lambert. A native of Texas with deep Louisiana roots, Amy graduated from LSU in May 2021 with a degree in French Education. Amy has been a part-time tour guide, offering guided tours in French, and most recently, was a member of our 2021 Summer History Camp staff. She will be a great addition to the Site's Educational staff.

Amy looks forward to meeting all of Magnolia Mound's great volunteers. "We are thrilled to have Amy in her new role. She brings experience, knowledge and dedication to everything she does." said John Sykes, Museum Director.



2021 Summer History Camp at the Mound was a great success!

by Ashley Freeman

130 campers participated in this year's eight-week program. In addition to exploring Louisiana life in the early 19th century, campers investigated the world of archaeology, from local archaeological sites to well-known wonders around the globe. Each site was brought to life through engaging art and craft projects. Campers also enjoyed our mainstay activities of weaving, making corn husk dolls, cooking in the open-hearth kitchen, and playing colonial games, including jacks, marbles, and hopscotch. This was our 41st summer of history camp which first began in June 1980.

Our staff was fantastic! Jordan Hollier, returning as director this year, has been part of our summer camp staff for the last three years and was an LSU student worker for two years. Amy Lambert, one of our tour guides and newly hired Volunteer Coordinator and Education Assistant, returned as a camp counselor. Daniel Alegre came on board as a first-year camp counselor, proving to be a fantastic addition to our engaging and energetic team.

We received positive feedback on the activities and friendliness of the staff throughout the summer from both campers and parents. One parent left a review on BREC's website praising our camp by helping her son make connections in the classroom:

"This was our first year at Magnolia Mound. He was engaged and excited every day for camp. So much so, that we cancelled a week of horse camp and enrolled in a second week at Magnolia Mound. My son has some learning disabilities...and his teacher called today to praise his knowledge relating to today's topic...She showed the students some

pictures. One was of a cave painting... Most of the students didn't even recognize it as a cave painting but my son not only identified it, he knew that it was located in France and was called the Lascaux!... He told me all about how he learned it at Magnolia Mound and they even made their own cave paintings! Such an awesome moment for him and me."

Comments like this are what fuel us to continue developing and offering opportunities to our community to learn, engage, and interact with history!

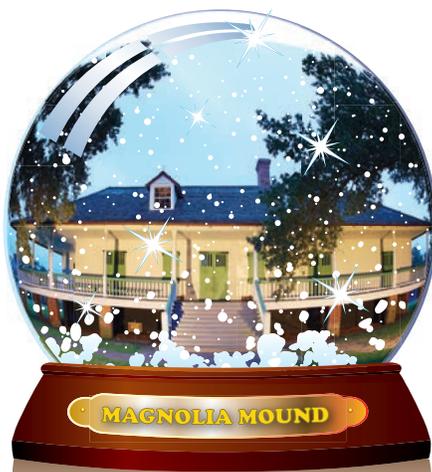
MEET OUR SUMMER CAMP STAFF



Left: Camp Counselor, Daniel Alegre: This was Daniel's first year as a camp counselor. He is a Junior at LSU majoring in Industrial Engineering. In his free time, he likes watching and playing soccer.

Middle: Camp Counselor, Amy Lambert: "I recently graduated from LSU. I have been working at Magnolia Mound for two years. Working at Magnolia Mound allows me to combine my love of both French and Louisiana culture in an educational environment. My favorite part of the year is the summer because I love History Camp and getting to work with the local youth."

Right: Camp Director, Jordan Hollier: This was Jordan's third year on staff! She is a senior at LSU majoring in Environmental Engineering.



Creole Christmas + Holiday Fair

Sunday, Nov 28, 2021
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Magnolia Mound's popular, annual holiday event returns this year. Come enjoy the first sounds of the holidays on the historic grounds of Magnolia Mound. Local craftsmen, musical performances, and traditional craft demonstrations.

Be sure to visit the holiday shop in the Turner Family Visitor Center for special gift items for family and friends. Friends of Magnolia Mound receive 20% off any item in the gift shop.

Admission to Creole Christmas is free.

DESIGNING PAPER QUILTS



WORKING ON LASCAUX CAVE PAINTINGS



MAKING CORN HUSK DOLLS



LEARNING THE BASICS OF WEAVING



CREATING EGYPTIAN LANDSCAPE COLLAGES WHILE WEARING GREEK LAUREL CROWNS



COMPLETED STONEHENGE SILHOUETTES



INDEPENDENT PLAY



PAINTING NATIVE AMERICAN POTTERY



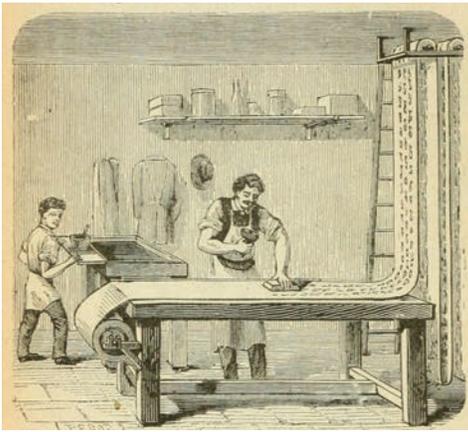


Photo source: archive.org/details/letourdelafrance00brunuoft/page/52/mode/2up



Photo source: cerig.pagora.grenoble-inp.fr/memoire/2016/papier-peint.htm



Photo source: www.pointecoalsace.fr/Region/Origin-Alsace/Un-luxe-alsacien-deux-fois-centenaire-03100.html

paper gluers, colors grinders, background-brushers, printers, engravers, designers, and painters.

Jean-Baptiste Réveillon knew that his accomplishments in the paper industry were in part thanks to the artists who designed the papers. He based his prints on contemporary paintings and neoclassical arabesque designs that were in fashion at the time. Réveillon used the wood-block technique to create his wallpaper. The different elements of the design were carved on wood blocks, then each block was imprinted on the paper following a specific pattern. The printer dipped the carved block into of a tray of the appropriate color and precisely applied it onto the paper. After each color application, the paper had to be hung to dry before the next color could be added. This process had to be repeated many times, depending on the number of colors required and the intricacy of the design. Réveillon also introduced the use of a 27-foot roll of paper of repeated motifs, as well as the use of water-based colors in mass production. As you can imagine, wood-block printing required extreme precision in the application process. Any mistake would result in total ruin of the paper.

As a highlight of his career, Réveillon designed the decorative pattern for the Montgolfier Balloon in 1783, earning him international recognition. As a result of all of his efforts and expertise, his workshop was granted the name of “Royal Manufacturer” the same year.

Sadly the Réveillon riot of April 28, 1789, at the start of the French Revolution, put an end to his manufacturing endeavors. A rumor spread that his inappropriate speech in which he associated reduced wages and lower prices with the animosity of many guildsmen led to a violent riot at his factory. The outcome of the riot was devastating for Réveillon’s business, as it suffered considerable damage. Eventually the manufacturing facility was rebuilt, but it never fully recovered from the riot. The business was sold in 1792 to Jacquemart & Bénard who continued to produce Réveillon’s designs as well as creating their own.

Jean Baptiste Réveillon is certainly remembered by history. Speare also noted that he “paved the way for the French wallpaper manufacturers including the highly esteemed Arthur et Grenard (later Arthur and Robert, of which tastemaker Thomas Jefferson was a loyal customer), who were known for their very fine neoclassical decors.” Unfortunately, we have forgotten the names of the many makers who fabricated his beautiful “papiers peints.”

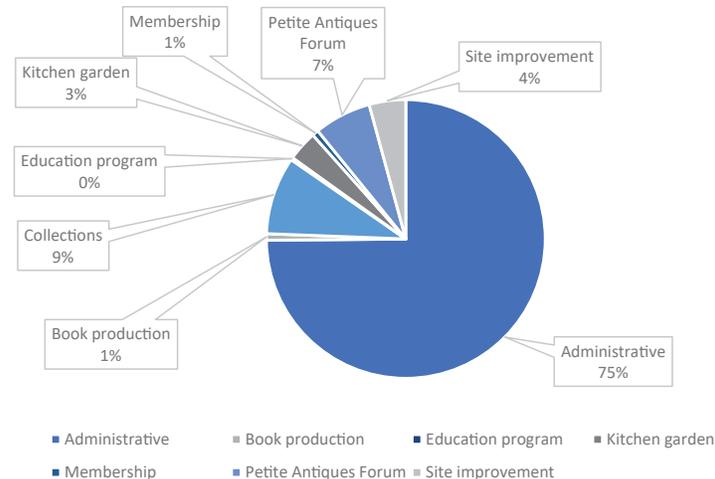
Information Sources:

- French Wallpaper Decors: Papiers Peints in Homes of the American South*, Christine Speare, Sotheby’s Institute of Art
- https://digitalcommons.sia.edu/stu_theses/8/?utm_source=digitalcommons.sia.edu%2Fstu_theses%2F8&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages
- The Réveillon Riot* (28 april 1789), <https://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/377/>

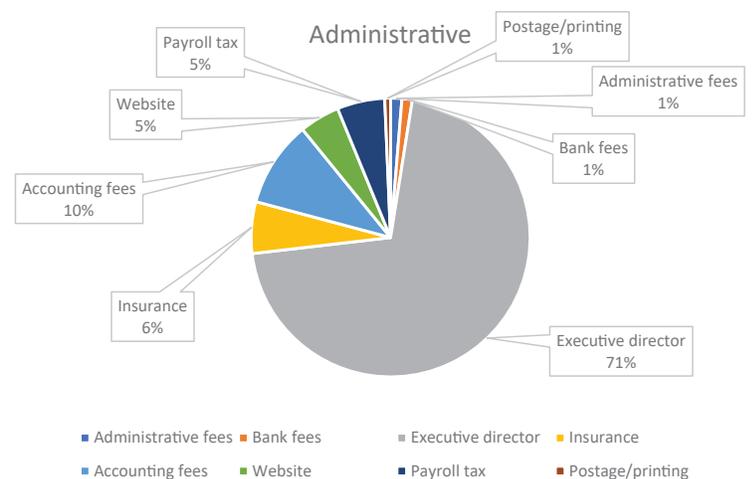
FRIENDS OF MAGNOLIA MOUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020-2021 EXPENSE BUDGET (\$58,000)

As of October 2021 – for a full account of revenues/expenses, please contact Babeth Schlegel, Executive Director, at (225) 421-3162

EXPENSES BY CLASS



DETAILS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES





A Unique Volunteer Experience: the Mound Kitchen

By Amy Lambert, BREC Volunteer Coordinator

The cooler fall weather means Magnolia Mound will be doing more open-hearth cooking demonstrations! We have scheduled kitchen docents for First Free Sundays, and the third Tuesday and third Thursday of the month. Visitors enjoy seeing what our kitchen docents are cooking using produce from our garden!

We welcome new kitchen volunteers! If you are interested, contact me at (225) 343-4955 ext. 5229 or email amy.lambert@brec.org. You'll receive a form to fill out and some historical cooking information. No previous experience is needed, but some basic kitchen knowledge is helpful.



L to R: Jeanne Yerger, Susan Wilder

Jeanne Yerger, a true Friend!

by Karen Zobrist

"It takes a village to get things done," is a common phrase, but so true! The Friends of Magnolia Mound have many special individuals who help accomplish its mission and projects. One such person is Jeanne Yerger, who recently stepped down from The Friends' board after serving her 6-year term.

Jeanne has been a volunteer kitchen cook for 30 years. She, along with Susan Wilder, prepare aromatic dinners over the open hearth, using fresh produce and herbs from the kitchen garden every Thursday, except in the summer. Additionally, she has used her culinary skills for preparing snacks for quarterly board meetings and coffee time at the annual Petite Antique Forums. Artistically gifted, Jeanne prepared the flower arrangements for the Sunday Jazz Brunch. Through her generosity, the original Hart dining chairs were restored for public use. Plus Jeanne and Cheryl Stromeyer shared in the cost of a new reflector oven that was purchased for the kitchen.

The Friends thank Jeanne for her many years of exemplary service. Her love and dedication to the Mound and the Friends are inspiring to us all.

FRIENDS OF MAGNOLIA MOUND UNDERWRITERS, MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Thanks to the following donors for joining the Mound or re-newing their membership.

If you have questions about membership or your renewal date please call Babeth Schlegel at (225) 421-3162.

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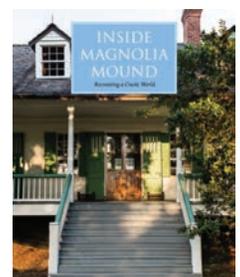
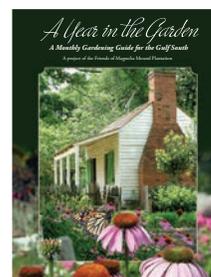
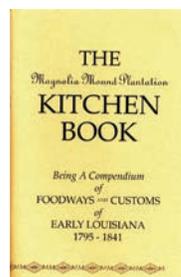
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**Indicates Honorary Member*

Please email Babeth Schlegel at friendsofmagnoliamount@gmail.com if your name has been omitted, if there is an error, or if you do not wish to be listed in future newsletters or on the Friends' website.



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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

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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.)

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Magnolia Mound's Fall Kitchen Garden

By Camm Morton



We are blessed in the lower south with two distinct growing seasons – spring/summer, and fall/winter. Winters are usually mild with only an occasional drop into the 20s for several hours, but generally not severe enough to kill the fall plants.

While it is possible to plant some spring crops, such as beans and tomatoes until the frost or freeze comes, we plant crops that love cool weather such as cole crops (broccoli, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower), carrots, artichokes, lettuce, beets, onions, leeks, and mustard greens.

Most of the spring/summer garden is ending by the middle of July except for the hot peppers and sweet potatoes. We take this time to test our soil and get the results back from LSU. We then rototill in the required elements such as potash, which seems to need replenishing every couple of years and sulfur to keep the pH down around 6.5 or so. This is done as early in August as feasible so that they both have time to blend in. This is particularly true of sulfur since it requires soil bacteria to convert the elemental sulfur to sulfuric acid and is not a fast process. The bacteria are most

active when it is hot with warm soil temperatures. We also do this every year so we are not trying to change the soil pH too much.

Once September rolls around we are ready to plant, but we prefer to wait for cooler weather. Fall plants will grow best with nights in the 60s. Most often this is around September 15. It also means less extreme heat most days.

We plant seedlings for our cole crops. We have three rows each of cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli and use different varieties with different days to maturity to space out our harvest. This lets us take advantage of the great growing weather of late September to mid-to-late November. We could plant a row every two to three weeks, but we have found the variety method works best.

We plant carrots and beets from seed with the advent of the first cool spell. These seeds germinate much better when the nights are cool, and the soil has begun to cool. This is also true of lettuce, but we now use plants so we can plant them a little later; the hot weather tends to cause them to “bolt” or go to the flowering stage very quickly. With plants put in around the first of October we get a longer harvest season. This is also true for celery.

We plant onion plants around mid-November since the seed really cannot be planted prior to about October 15 due to the daylight requirements of “Short-Day” onions like “1015,” so named because of the favored planting time for the seed.

The fall/winter harvest begins in the first week in November when the broccoli is ready until May when we harvest the onions. Since our spring garden really gears up with the average last frost date of March 15, most of the rest of our fall garden is completed and ready for spring.