



Le Journal des Amis



GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hopefully fall weather will be here soon! The Master Gardeners and the Site Committee of The Friends have planted a pumpkin patch for the first time. The Pick Your Own Pumpkin fundraiser, held on October 1, for the Master Gardeners was a success.

The Christmas season is a busy time at Magnolia Mound.

On Sunday, December 3, the Duplantier Christmas Party will be held at the Hart House. Friends members are all invited. Details to come.

On Sunday, December 10, Creole Christmas will be celebrated at the Mound. There will be a hayride, tours of the historic buildings, and shopping at the booths full of goodies. The Friends and the public are invited.

Thursday, January 25, 2024, is the Petite Antiques Forum. The speaker will be James Blanchard, who has painted many of the plantations along the Mississippi River. The tour houses will be Belle Alliance and Palo Alto, both in Donaldsonville, and not usually open to the public. Please put the date on your calendar! Since this is The Friends only fund raising event, please consider being a sponsor for the event. See the article in this newsletter.

This past June, Magnolia Mound hosted the Duplantier family reunion, which occurs every 10 years. Over 300 family members attended, sharing stories, and enjoying the familial property.

Sincerely,
Karen Zobrist
President

24th Annual Petite Antiques Forum January 25

By Catherine White



Belle Alliance

will have the opportunity to tour two privately owned historic residences outside of Donaldsonville. The owners of Palo Alto Plantation and Belle Alliance Plantation will welcome our group to their homes.

Belle Alliance, on the east bank of Bayou Lafourche, is attributed to the noted architect Henry Howard and constructed in 1846 for Charles Anton Kock, a sugar planter.

Nearby, on Bayou Lafourche is Palo Alto Plantation. Its planter's residence is believed to have been designed by James Dakin, another renowned architect, and built in 1847. It has remained in the same family since 1867.

More information about the forum and opportunities to sponsor this event will be available soon on the Friends website. Friends will be able to purchase tickets to the Forum at the Salon Duplantier on December 3. Online registration begins the first of January 2024.

Proceeds from the forum are used by the Friends of Magnolia Mound to care for the furnishings of Magnolia Mound. BREC owns and operates the property, while the Friends own and maintain the collection.

As you make your plans for the upcoming new year, be sure to include the Magnolia Mound Petite Antiques Forum at the top of your list. You will not want to miss this splendid event scheduled for January 25, 2024.

The first Petite Antiques Forum was in 2000 and was the brainchild of the late H. Parrott "Pat" Bacot, curator of the decorative arts collection at Magnolia Mound. Pat Bacot served for over three decades as the curatorial advisor to the Friends. He worked tirelessly to assemble an accurate collection of period items to complete the restoration of the historic house museum at Magnolia Mound. The Petite Antiques Forum, like Magnolia Mound itself, reflects Pat's scholarship and dedication to education of the decorative arts.

This year the illustrated lecture will be given by Jim Blanchard. Mr. Blanchard, an architectural archival artist and historian, is known for his exquisite paintings of historic Louisiana buildings. Meticulously researched, these paintings recreate the appearance of Louisiana landmarks in their heydays. The lecture, "A Steamboat Tour from New Orleans to Baton Rouge in the 1850s" will feature images of his paintings depicting historic structures along the banks of the Mississippi River. Some of these buildings no longer exist.

Following the lecture, the forum continues with luncheon. Afterwards, participants



Palo Alto



Deciphering the Hall Marks on Our Silver Tea Urn

Written by Babeth Schlegel, edited by Chet Coles

Hot water, coffee, or tea urns were often placed on the sideboards of the wealthier classes. A tea urn is on display on the Sheraton-style sideboard of the Magnolia Mound dining room. It is an English George III sterling silver piece with possibly some Old Sheffield silver plate elements. Most of the English silver items were stamped with either 4 or 5 symbols, known as hallmarks.

Let's look at the hallmarks stamped on the front of the Friends' tea urn.



The first one is the Duty Mark. The Antiques Trade Gazette mentions that "many items of Georgian and Victorian silver will carry a sovereign's head—a 'duty' mark reflecting a tax on precious metals collected between 1784 and 1890. The excise duty on gold and silver articles was collected by the assay

offices and the mark was struck to show that it had been paid." The Friends tea urn shows the duty mark of George III.



The second mark is the silver hallmark of the lion passant. A walking lion means sterling silver made in England.

The third one is the date letter. The shape of the shield which is

the background, and the capitalization varied in each cycle of letters. Only 20 letters were used. Based on the combination of font and shield it is possible to know the year. This tea urn bears the capital date letter F for 1801. The last mark is of the maker, which reads the initials TH within an oval shield. The actual maker has not yet been identified.



This urn is also engraved with the monograms of Colonel Philip Hickey (1778-1859) and his wife Ann Mather, owners of Hope Estate Plantation in Baton Rouge.

It is believed that around 1743, Thomas Boulsover (1706-1788) a cutler from Sheffield, while repairing a copper and silver knife accidentally discovered that the two metals could be fused. When the fused metals were rolled in a rolling mill, they expanded in unity, acting as if they were a single metal. This technique is referred to as Old Sheffield Plate.

Armytage wrote that Horace Walpole, in September 1760, wrote: "I passed through Sheffield, which is one of the foulest towns in England, in the most charming situation. There are 22,000 inhabitants making knives and scissors. One man there has discovered the art of plating copper with silver".

Boulsover's invention opened the way to economical production of a great variety of plated objects which were manufactured in large quantities by other Sheffield workers. Boulsover capitalized on his discovery in the button trade.

For about 100 years Sheffield Plate held the market, until it was supplanted by the cheaper process of electroplating. In 1840, Elkington & Co patented this technique. When immersed in a vat containing potassium and given an electrical charge, metal could be transferred from one object to another.

J.H. Tee Antiques mentions that "Fusion plate is distinctly different from electroplate in its construction, but the difference in appearance can be subtle. Good old electroplate is often confused with fusion plate. A few things to look out for: colour, the silver OSP is sterling, and it should have a slightly bluish patina. OSP was usually not marked at all but occasionally you will find a maker's mark."

SOURCES:

A Sheffield Quaker In Philadelphia 1804-1806 by W.H.G. Armytage. www.jstor.org/stable/27769126

History of Old Sheffield Plate, 1912. <https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/historyofoldshef00brad>

Victoria and Albert Museum; Britannica.com; Antiques Trade Gazette. www.antiquetrade gazette.com/guides/information-guides/hallmarks/

J.H. Tee Antiques LTD. <https://justinteeantiques.com/en-us/pages/what-is-old-sheffield-plate>

I. Franks www.ifranks.com/how-to-read-hallmarks

George III engraving - Credit: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Original Author: Charles Spooner, engraver, after work by J. Meyer; Created: 1761-1767; Medium: Engraving; Publisher: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



The Magnolia Mound tea urn was made during the reign of George III, who ruled from 1760 to 1820.

BE A SPONSOR FOR THE 2024

Petite Antiques Forum AND HOUSE TOURS

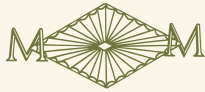
Sponsorships support the forum, with proceeds enabling the Friends to maintain the collection of Magnolia Mound. Sponsorships are available in the following amounts:

\$300 includes admission for one to the forum

\$600 includes admissions for two to the forum

\$1000 includes admissions for three to the forum

To sponsor the forum please contact the Friends of Magnolia Mound, P.O. Box 1254, Baton Rouge, 70821



Bees at Magnolia Mound!



Photo by John Sykes

Magnolia Mound's newest pollinators arrived on May 22. It's a project of the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners in conjunction with beekeeping expert, Kevin Langley. We now have three hives on the property. Look forward to our own Magnolia Mound honey in the future.

WE REMEMBER



DR. A. BROOKS CRONAN died on August 9 at his home in New Iberia. A longtime supporter of the Friends, Dr. Cronan had a passion for Louisiana history and arts which prompted generous gifts to support the restoration of Magnolia Mound, and to help assemble our decorative arts collection used to interpret the historic house. A special gift was the donation in 1982 of the ca.1810 pigeonier. This rare, early outbuilding was from Cronan's family's home, Barthel Plantation in Iberville Parish. We are grateful for his support and his legacy at the Mound.



HENRY MCCLOSKEY of New Orleans died on August 24. The owner of Zito's Plating Polishing Works at 4421 Banks Street, Mr. Henry was a renowned artist in metal and lighting refinishing work for over 35 years. Henry's work can be seen all over the historic house museum. His family business, Zito's, has been an important resource for years in caring for the museum's metalwork. Henry took great pride in his work, and we enjoyed a special relationship for two decades. His son Corey and daughter-in-law Blake McCloskey will continue the family business at Zito's.



Our beloved kitchen docent **EVA BELL** died on August 27 at her home in Achworth, GA. For more than 25 years, Eva was part of a cooking team with Jeanne Yerger and Susan Wilder, who faithfully cooked in our open-hearth kitchen every month to fascinated school groups and visitors. Eva was a bright spirit, and a delight to be around. Eva retired from hearth cooking in 2012 when she moved to Georgia with her husband Don to be near her children and grandchildren. Don, her husband, died a few weeks before Eva's death.

Creole Christmas & Holiday Fair



Photographs from Creole Christmas 2022:

(L) Robbie Williams as Papa Noel (Photo by Craig Rowley), (R) Jerry Jenkins, drummer and storyteller, of Vicksburg, MS returned again to enthrall visitors. (Photo by Ryan Dumas)

Join us at the Mound for this year's Creole Christmas & Holiday Fair on Sunday, December 10 from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Enjoy wonderful holiday vendors, musical performances, craft demonstrations, and horse drawn carriage rides on the grounds.

If any member of the Friends would like to volunteer to help out at this fun event, please contact Babeth Schlegel at 225-343-4955 or bschlegel@brec.org.

This annual holiday event is co-sponsored by BREC and the Friends of Magnolia Mound. No admission is charged.

2023 Duplantier Family Reunion held at Magnolia Mound

By John Sykes

On Saturday, June 10, 2023, we hosted the Famille Duplantier for their third family reunion at Magnolia Mound. (Previous reunions were in 2003, and 2013.) These once-a-decade reunions are special days in which welcome 300-350 descendants of Armand Duplantier back to their family home, Magnolia Mound. Duplantiers from across the United States, including Hawaii, attended the reunion. Special thanks to our Friends' volunteers, Karen Zobrist, Diane Finley, Liz Treppendahl, Susan Eaton, and the Mound Staff for a great day.

Photos by BREC



Pick Your Own Pumpkin Patch



L to R: Fran Martin, Camm Morton, Babeth Schlegel, Gee Gee Hargon



Photos by Jane Thomas and Camm Morton

The Master Gardeners along with Friends of Magnolia Mound volunteers had a very successful Pumpkin Picking for their first endeavor. There were jars of local honey, pumpkins of several varieties, corn stalks in bundles, and sugar cane for sale. About \$750 was raised after expenses. The leftover pumpkins, including some small white ones, sold for half price at the gift shop. Proceeds benefited the Master Gardeners at MMP.

Many families came out and enjoyed picking their own pumpkins and chewing on a little sugar cane. The expressions on the children's faces as they picked their own pumpkins were full of enthusiasm.

Summer History Camp at the Mound

By Story and Photos by Monique Mulder, Education Program Specialist

This year, the theme for Magnolia Mound summer camp was "Back to the Future" and focused on inventors. The first session, running for four weeks in June featured inventors from the 1800s, while the second session in July featured Louisiana inventors. Campers had fun experiences such as taste testing sugar products while learning about the inventions involved in the sugar cane production cycle and making drums to imitate the traditional drums that enslaved individuals made in Louisiana. Twice a week, the students had field trips to destinations such as the West Baton Rouge Museum, the Rural Life Museum, and Capitol Park Museum. Each one-week session was filled, and several weeks had waiting lists! 2023 was our 43rd year of Summer History Camp.



MYKAYLA JACKSON, a native of Dallas, Texas, attends Southern University and is majoring in Therapeutic Recreation and Leisure Studies. A former camp counselor in Mesquite, Texas, Mykayla was our Camp Director for the 2023 Summer History Camp. During the school semester, Mykayla also works as a tour guide.



CORBIN NGUYEN is a graduate of Baton Rouge Magnet High School and will attend Louisiana State University in the fall. He is majoring in political science but also has interests in psychology, philosophy, acting, art, and writing. He hopes to one day be someone who can bring about change in the world and improve everyone's lives.



KAHLILA BANDELE is a graduate of Baton Rouge Magnet High School, and she will attend Rhodes College in the fall. She is planning on majoring in history with an interest in pre-law. In addition to her studies, Kahlila reads and roller blades in her free time. Working with kids is a personal passion of hers and being at Magnolia Mound has brought light to her life.

MAGNOLIA MOUND

Shape Note / Sacred Harp Singing

COME SING WITH US!

SHAPE NOTE SINGING (also known as Sacred Harp) is an early American four-part a cappella singing tradition. Singers sit in a "hollow square" and sing the 'shapes' followed by the words.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - all are welcome to join in singing. We will begin with a 30-minute "singing school" to acquaint newcomers with the process. The actual singing session will begin at 2:00 p.m.

For those familiar with this tradition, please note that we will sing out of the "blue" and "red" books. Music will be provided for those who need it.

NOV. 5

1:30-4:00 P.M.

(meet in the LaGrange Barn in the back)

brec.org/magnoli mound

2161 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge

magnoli mound@brec.org

225-343-4955



Friends of Magnolia Mound Underwriters, Membership and Donations as of Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023

Thanks to the following donors for joining the Mound or renewing their membership.

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

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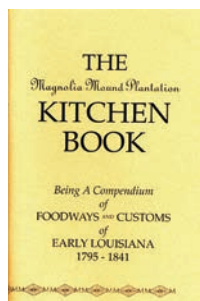
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Please email Babeth Schlegel at friendsofmagnoliamount@gmail.com if your name has been omitted, if there is an error, or if you do not wish to be listed in future newsletters or on the Friends' website.*

Members receive 20% off
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Use the form or go online to our secure website at
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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

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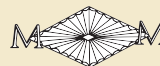
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The Friends & BREC - partners in preservation for over 50 years.

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.)

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

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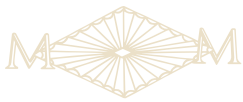
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Want to Grow Pumpkins for Halloween? Plant Your Seeds in June!

By Camm Morton

Pumpkins are a really fun crop to grow, especially for children. Most pumpkins take 90 to 100 days to mature so if you want your pumpkins in early October you will need to plant sometime in June depending on the variety you are growing. Pumpkins need a lot of room for their vines so the rows need to be 6 to 8 ft. apart. Apply a complete fertilizer like 13-13-13 prior to forming the rows and plant 5 to 6 seeds in hills about 40 to 48 inches apart. Once the seedlings develop their first true leaves thin them to 2 plants per hill. As the plants are about to start to run, sidedress with a high nitrogen fertilizer like calcium nitrate.

There are lots of different kinds of pumpkins. Just check the catalogs to see what you want to grow and have fun with it. Happy Growing.



Photos by Jane Thomas and Camm Morton