



# Le Journal des Amis



## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is here. Finally. It's that time of year we spend with family and friends to experience the multitude of outdoor activities happening around us: tailgating parties, music and art festivals, our schools' Fall carnivals. There is something about our fall weather that makes us want to go outside and stay out. Unfortunately, this crazy pandemic is keeping us from doing the normal seasonal activities we love. But that doesn't mean we can't enjoy these cooler temperatures in other ways—taking a stroll under the oaks at LSU, visiting Mike the Tiger, biking the levee path, having a picnic lunch overlooking the Mississippi, and visiting historical sites located throughout the community.

Many of our local museums and galleries have adapted their tours to comply with social distancing standards and would love for you to visit. Magnolia Mound now limits tours to groups of 4 or family units of 6 and it's the perfect time to stroll the grounds, visit the garden and view the house and exquisite collection. (A reminder that all Friends' membership levels include free admission!)

Covid-19 has changed many things in our life this past year, but one thing it hasn't touched – our fantastic Autumn weather. Lets get outdoors and safely enjoy every minute of it.

Donna Mitchell, *President*

## Pat Bacot's Legacy



*Photo shoot for the 2014 Antiques Roadshow: Left to Right: Louise Miller, Charlie Collias, Leigh Keno (AR appraiser), Pat Bacot, Sarah Elliott, Adam Monahan, Mark L. Wahlberg (AR host), Bob Birkett and John Sykes (Photo by Adam Monahan)*

**H. Parrott Bacot, Jr.**, better known as Pat, died October 20, 2020. He had been the curator for the Friends since the restoration of the historic house began in the 1960s. Later Pat became the curator emeritus of the Friends of Magnolia Mound's decorative and fine arts collection. It is not an exaggeration to say that the historic house would not look the way it does now without the devotion, passion, and expertise of Pat. In 1975, the furnishing of the historic house began with one armoire. It took many years of research to find the perfect examples that would help put the story of Magnolia Mound together. The collection of antique furnishings helps visitors experience a family home of the early nineteenth century. In the modern world we live in where most goods are machine made, it is extremely important to preserve and to present for future generation the craftsmanship of the past.

In 2015, Pat was filmed for a special tour of the historic house. Here is a transcript in his own words: *"My name is Pat Bacot and I am privileged to be the curator emeritus of the Friends of Magnolia Mound decorative and fine arts collection. You are perhaps wondering how we furnished this house. How did we go about it? Well first off, we did archaeology around the house. That is very helpful to learn what kind of ceramics and glass the Duplantiers and everybody else used here. So that gave us a lot of direction. We also go to wills and newspaper articles, written pieces of paper, letters, that sort of thing and we look at inventories for houses of this size and of equal stature. Now why do I say that? It is because of the fact that when Armand Duplantier died in 1827 his probate, which was supposed to have been filed here in the East Baton Rouge Parish Court house, somehow over the years was either misfiled or maybe it was stolen. Who really knows, something has happened to it. So, we had to go to other houses of similar size for*

*Continued on page 2*

## Petite Antiques Forum 2021



The Friends of Magnolia Mound's Petite Antiques Forum will be held in the spring next year on Saturday, April 10, 2021. We've come up with a wonderful and safe way to hold this popular event and comply with the limitations of Covid-19.

A lecture by Dr. Wayne Stromeyer on antique gardens will be held in Magnolia Mound's open-air pavilion, **Le Grange**. Individual "picnic basket" lunches will be served, and guests are invited to enjoy the beautiful grounds and gardens of Magnolia Mound.

We will then travel in our own vehicles to **Chene Vert**, the restored circa 1825 Creole home of Wayne and Cheryl Stromeyer on Highland Road for a tour of their lovely 11 acres of gardens, which includes a formal parterre garden, and various out-buildings on the grounds.

We hope that you will plan to attend the Petite Antiques Forum in April. Invitations will be sent out in March.

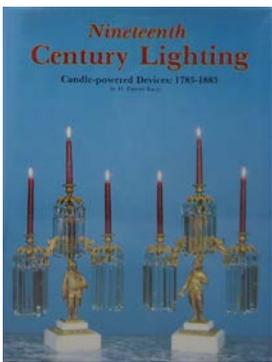
Susan Wilder, *Chairman*



Taken in 1993 – Gene Young - BREC Superintendent, Suzette Tannehill, Susan Wilder, Pat Bacot and Gwen Edwards, Executive Director of Magnolia Mound at that time.

that reason. Fortunately, the inventory for Duplantier's maternal uncle, Claude Trenonay of Pointe Coupee Parish, survives and of course Duplantier inherited some of his property. So that was a very helpful guide".

Pat mentioned that there were a lot of candleholders in the Claude Trenonay inventory. Over the years the Friends have received or acquired over twenty candleholders for the historic house. In 1987, Pat Bacot wrote a book on lighting: *Nineteenth Century Lighting, Candle-powered Devices: 1783-1883* (available online).



Here is an excerpt: "The earliest candles were rush piths which were dipped in tallow. These rush lights were used in humbler homes into the nineteenth century. The true wax candles, in the cylindrical shape and made of materials such as tallow and beeswax enclosing and saturating a fibrous wick, dates to the beginning of the Christian era... The tallow candles were by no means easy to use since they require wick trimming every five to thirty minutes, depending on the quality of the wax. Scissor like snuffers with boxes to catch the charred wick ends had to be used to keep those particles from falling into the molten tallow. Wick debris caused "guttering," that is to say, gullies of molten tallow would run down the side of the candle from the pool of liquefied tallow beneath the flame. Left untended the majority of the candle would go to waste.

Finer candles were commercially made from the seventeenth century forward, but it was the advent of whaling as a major industry in the late eighteenth century that led to the discovery of a new candle-making material. Spermaceti, which came from the head cavity of the sperm whale, could be made into a white candle that burned with a clear, steady flame.

Up until 1820, all candle wicks had been made by twisting flax or cotton together. In that year the Frenchman, Jean-Jacques Cambaceres, discovered that plaiting cotton produced a wick that would be consumed. At that same time Michel-Eugene Chevreul, a French chemist, was doing research concerning fatty acids. This research led another French scientist, Gay-Lussac, in 1825 to separate the fatty acid from the glycerin of fat to produce stearic acid. The Englishman Milly not only helped to commercially establish this even-burning material in candle manufacture, but in 1831 he introduced the impregnation of wicks with boric acid which virtually eliminated guttering.

Improvements in the machinery to manufacture candles began as early as 1801, which led to the modern methods of chandlering. Thomas Binn, a "water-closet maker," was granted a British patent in that year for his invention of a water-coiled mould. In

1823, Joseph Morgan devised a movable piston to eject the cooled candle. By the mid 1830s these developments had been incorporated into a full-fledged machine consisting of rows of moulds set in a metal tank which was heated and cooled alternately. Wicking located on spools below the machine was fed through the pistons which ejected the candles from the moulds after the moulds were cooled. These candles, which did not need their wicks trimmed or in the terms of the day were "snuffles," could be bought for a shilling a pound in 1840."



In the plantation office you can see an example of a black sheet iron candle snuffer and tray from the early 19th century.

In the master bedroom there is a First French Empire chamber stick that closely matches one owned by Pierre Favrot, Armand's brother-in-law.



Pat was my guide and I miss him greatly. Even though Pat is not with us anymore, his legacy is. Walking through the house, I can still hear and feel his presence.

Babeth



Camm Morton, garden chair, and Liz Treppendahl, EBR Master Gardeners and Magnolia Mound Volunteers in front of their new garden shed. (Photo by John Sykes)

## New Garden Shed

The new garden shed was completed in October just in time for the Fall growing season. Constructed by BREC's Planning and Engineering Department, the garden shed was the result of several years of research and design begun by our former Friend's Site Committee Chair, Winnie Byrd. Our garden volunteers assembled a wish list of needs for the new structure. This new structure is designed to blend into the landscape, offering the space and convenience needed for our gardeners.

Special thanks to our landscape advisors, Susan Turner and Jon Emerson. Garden volunteer Mary Lynn McMains helped to keep the focus on the project, and Mary Tharp, our new Site Committee chair, stepped in to work with BREC to complete the project.

The vegetable garden is a major part of the site's education mission and has been since the early work done by former garden chair, Vickie Chiles Hearin (1935-1992). Our garden volunteers work each Thursday morning, and are always open for others to join them in a perfectly, "socially distanced" activity.

# Magnolia Mound Loves Its Volunteers

By Mary Kathryn Merchant, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers are an important part of Magnolia Mound. From the very beginning in the 1960s, volunteers were the first docents, formed the first corps of kitchen interpreters, and led the first efforts to create a strong educational program. The Kitchen Garden, a living educational classroom for the site, has been revived and sustained by a dedicated group of East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners. Magnolia Mound's volunteers continue to work reliably in important roles to help support the site's educational mission. House Docents formed the earliest volunteer group at the Mound. A guided tour is the primary introduction for visitors to the site's history

In lieu of the usual volunteer luncheon, Magnolia Mound would like to recognize the wonderful work done by our volunteers and honor their dedication and years of service.

In 2020, we are honoring the past three years of service anniversaries. A traditional gift with special significance to Magnolia Mound is chosen to mark the special anniversaries for our volunteers. For 5 years, a special Magnolia Mound plate, 10 years, a mochaware mug, 15 years features a pin made from archaeological sherds found at the Mound. (Special thanks to our own in-house jewelry designer Babeth Schlegel.)

**Brenda Perkins** is recognized for her 20 years of service as a house docent with a mochaware bowl. We are excited to recognize 30 years of service and dedication from **Susan Wilder** and **Jeanne Yerger**. In addition to their volunteer service hours as kitchen docents, Susan and Jeanne give even more of themselves serving also as board members of the Friends of Magnolia Mound. They will each receive a large mochaware bowl.

Each year since 2012, we have also honored the individual volunteer with the greatest number of service hours to the Mound. The Volunteer of the Year Award has been renamed in honor of its first recipient, and long-time house docent, **Anne Gueymard Shirley** (1937-2018). This year, the 2020 Shirley Award will be

presented to Garden Chair **Camm Morton**, who also received the Shirley Award in 2017. Past recipient of the Shirley Award, **Rosemary Lane**, receives the 2018 Shirley Award for her work as a kitchen docent.

We are thankful for all of our award winners:

## 2017 VOLUNTEERS AWARDS

Shirley Award – **Camm Morton**

30 years – **Susan Wilder**

30 years – **Jeanne Yerger**

20 years – **Brenda Perkins**

10 years – **Cathy Richardson**

10 years – **Camm Morton**

5 years – **Wendy Capiello**

1st year – **Vince Baccari**

## 2018 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Shirley Award – **Rosemary Lane**

1st year – **Jessica Kimm**

## 2019 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Shirley Award – **Camm Morton**

15 years – **Julia Hooker**

15 years – **Mary Lynn McMains**

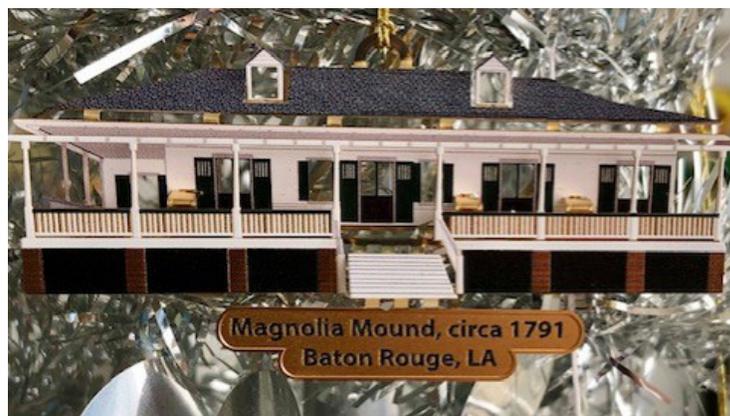
10 years – **Laura Rhorer**

5 years – **Liz Treppendahl**

Magnolia Mound continues to lead BREC with among the largest number of volunteer hours contributed. Consider joining our wonderful group of volunteers in 2021.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Craig Rowley, administrator at 225-343-4955 or [craig.rowley@brec.org](mailto:craig.rowley@brec.org)

# Magnolia Mound Gift Shop Christmas Ornaments and Gifts



The new Magnolia Mound house ornament is available in the gift shop at the Turner Family Visitor Center at Magnolia Mound along with many other delightful and unique gifts. Enjoy a tour of Magnolia Mound and end your visit with a visit to the Gift Shop!



**WAYNE DAVIS**, shown here with his wife Marilyn in 2005 at the 30th anniversary of the House Opening, died this past October. Marilyn recently stepped down from the Friends board after serving many years and Wayne often lent a much appreciated hand at our events. We will miss you Wayne, and offer Marilyn and their family our sincerest condolences.

**FMM Newsletter Team:** Editors: Jane Thomas, Babeth Schlegel  
Contributors: Donna Mitchell, John Sykes, Susan Wilder

## FRIENDS OF MAGNOLIA MOUND UNDERWRITERS, MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Our new membership year started October 1. Thanks to the following donors for joining the Mound or re-newing their membership. (since October 1). We are currently in our membership drive and we encourage you to renew if you haven't done so yet.

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

### MAJOR UNDERWRITERS

Franklin Press – Printing  
Thomasgraphics – Graphic  
Design

### ARMAND ALLARD DUPLANTIER CIRCLE

**\$5,000**

John G. Turner and  
Jerry G. Fischer

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**\$1,000**

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### DONATION IN MEMORY OF EUGENE YOUNG

Carol Anne and Sidney Blitzer  
Mr. and Mrs. A Bridger Eglin  
John Sykes

If you wish to make a  
donation in memoriam  
please call Babeth Schlegel  
at (225) 421-3162.

\*Indicates Honorary Member

Please email Babeth Schlegel at  
friendsofmagnoli mound@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.



**STUDENT - \$25**  
 Free admission and tour for one  
 20% discount in gift shop  
 Advance notice of events

**SUPPORTER - \$50**  
 Name on the web donor page  
 Name in newsletter  
 Free admission and tour for one  
 20% discount in gift shop  
 Invited to Le Salon Duplantier  
 Advance notice of events

**CONTRIBUTOR - \$100**  
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 Free admission and tours for two  
 20% discount in gift shop  
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**PATRON - \$250**  
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 Advance notice of events

**MAGNOLIA CIRCLE - \$500**  
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 One ticket to the Petite Antiques Forum  
 Free admission and tours for six  
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*Inside Magnolia Mound* book  
 Invited to Le Salon Duplantier  
 Advance notice of events

**DUPLANTIER SOCIETY \$1,000**  
 Honored at Le Salon Duplantier  
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 Free admission and private guided tours for you plus ten

20% discount in gift shop  
*Inside Magnolia Mound* book  
 Advance notice of events

**CONSTANCE JOYCE DUPLANTIER CIRCLE \$2,500**  
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 Free admission and private guided tours for you plus ten  
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**ARMAND ALLARD DUPLANTIER CIRCLE \$5,000**  
 Honored at Le Salon Duplantier  
 Name on web donor page  
 Name in newsletter  
 Four tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum  
 Free admission and private guided tours for you plus ten  
 20% discount in gift shop  
*Inside Magnolia Mound* book  
 Advance notice of events

**MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE CIRCLE \$10,000**  
 Candlelight dinner for eight in the Hart House  
 Honored at Le Salon Duplantier  
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 Name in newsletter  
 Six tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum  
 Free admission and private guided tours for you plus ten  
 20% discount in gift shop  
*Inside Magnolia Mound* book  
 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.

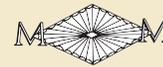
The Friends provide advisory and financial assistance for the kitchen garden, which is part of the educational tour at the Mound. Produce from the garden is used in the cooking demonstrations in the kitchen building.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS THIS MISSION

Friends of Magnolia Mound

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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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Check Membership Level:  Student \$25  Supporter \$50  Contributor \$100  Patron \$250  Magnolia Circle \$500

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Marquis de Lafayette Circle \$10,000 I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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