



Le Journal des Amis



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Back in the early '60s, a group of determined individuals saved Magnolia Mound from certain demolition. I can only imagine what would have taken this historic landmark's place... condos, a convenience store, a gas station? But because of this group's vision, their energy and their absolute love of Baton Rouge and it's historic places, Magnolia Mound still stands today for all to see and experience.

Sadly, we lost some of those dedicated individuals in 2020 – Sue Turner, Winnie Byrd, Pat Bacot – and we at Magnolia Mound are truly in mourning. We've lost our founders, those who helped create the Friends of Magnolia Mound and who were the backbone of our organization. We've lost our mentors, who knew so much and had so much to share. We've lost our friends. All of us who volunteer at Magnolia Mound are here, in some way or another, because of Sue, Pat or Winnie. We were asked to share in their mission and they entrusted us with their legacy.

There are no condos, convenience stores or gas stations where Magnolia Mound proudly sits today, where it has sat since the 1700s! Let us give thanks to Ms. Turner, Ms. Byrd, Mr. Bacot and all those who joined their efforts in leaving us such a true, Baton Rouge treasure. And as members of the Friends of Magnolia Mound, let's honor them by doing all we can to keep Magnolia Mound shining bright for generations to come.

Donna Mitchell, *President*



Bert and Sue Turner



Winnie Byrd and Sue Turner – Front Galerie of Magnolia Mound, Fall 1979

A Tribute to Sue Turner

Why I loved Sue...DEDICATION. Her dedication to Magnolia Mound for fifty years always astonished me. The years that she'd given us of her time and talents was more than just a quantity. She maintained her love of this place, believing in our education mission, and kept faith with us through early years and lean times—all things that would have driven off a less dedicated person.

But, Sue remained loyal to the Mound, giving us a grand new building to welcome new generations of visitors. She inspired me with her example and I will treasure moments in meetings or on trips across the state where she'd let that wry sense of humor shine forth. Her clever wit showed me that patience is the silent partner to dedication.

– John Sykes
Museum Director, Magnolia Mound



Suzette Tannehill, Martha White, Sue Turner, Elise Rosenthal and Winnie Byrd – 30th Anniversary of the Site Opening, March 2005



Magnolia Mound Turner Family Visitors Center



Announcement of donation for new visitor Center with Suzanne Turner and Sue Turner, July 2010



Sue Turner and Winnie Byrd – Duplantier Reunion, July 2013



50th Anniversary Party, Barn Bash – John Carpenter and Sue Turner, October 2016



Sue Turner, Elise Rosenthal, Robert Heck, and Louise Prosser – Magnolia Mound, 1966



Sue Turner, with John Sykes and Winnie Byrd – 50th Anniversary of the Rescue of Magnolia Mound, August 2016



Winnie Byrd, Suzanne Turner and Sue Turner, Fall 2017

A COMMITMENT TO PRESERVATION

By the 1960s the Magnolia Mound was empty, in great need of repair and threatened with demolition. Preservationists, led by the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, spearheaded the restoration efforts. The Baton Rouge Recreation and Parks purchased the property in 1966 and by 1975 the House was opened to the public. Sue Turner was part of that group that insisted on preserving the late-1700s structure. They succeeded in 1966, and the Turners donated money for the visitors center now on the site.

In 2016, Sue told a reporter that Magnolia Mound had been her “sixth” child – a place she loved dearly.

Now BREC’s Magnolia Mound is a historic house museum and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Thank you to Sue and all of her fellow preservationists for saving Magnolia Mound.

The Kitchen Garden at Magnolia Mound

By Camm Morton



Magnolia Mound's Kitchen Garden has been a project of the Louisiana Master Gardeners of Baton Rouge for over 15 years. It has seen many changes in those years, the most recent of which is a new shed for our tools and equipment. The funds for the new shed came from BREC.

Our goal as the keepers of the garden as a demonstration garden is to grow crops that grow well in our Louisiana climate. The kitchen docents, who on Thursdays give cooking demonstrations of foods of the late 1700s and the 1800s, often use our produce in their recipes.

South Louisiana is a wonderful place to grow a kitchen garden with vegetables and herbs year-round. Currently we are growing the fall and winter garden. With the moderate temperatures of our long fall we can grow cole crops such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and mustard greens. We start these in mid-September for harvest from November to December and sometimes early January. We also have celery, onions, garlic, lettuce, carrots, beets, leeks and artichokes in the garden this time of year. We grow herbs for their tolerance to cold weather such as parsley, dill, cilantro, fennel, rosemary, sage, and thyme, some of which grow year-round at Magnolia Mound.

Our summer gardens are like many you see in other parts of the country, but at Magnolia Mound we start early. Our average last frost date is March 15th and we try to plant as much as we can around that date based on the 10-day forecast for no frost or freezing. Our summer plantings include green beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, peppers, tomatoes, squash to name a few. We even grew some cotton one year as a demonstration.



At Magnolia Mound for about the last 12 years we have been planting onion plants bought from Dixondale Farms in Carrizo Springs, TX. Their plants are beautiful and reasonable in price. Sowing onion plants is more reli-

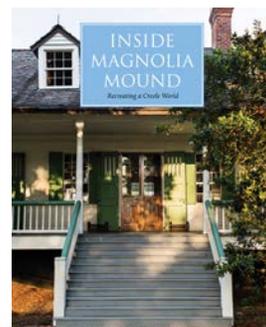
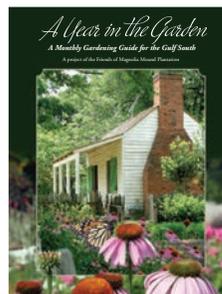
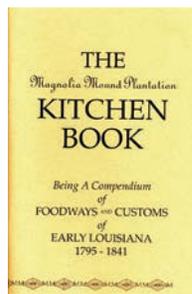
able than planting from seed. In most of Louisiana and the deep south we grow what are known as Short-Day Onions. There are also Intermediate-Day and Long-Day onions, but the Short-Day Onions grow best here in South Louisiana. The bulbs start to form when the day length reaches 10 to 12 hours in early March. The trick to large onions is to get the onions planted as soon as you can to get large leaf tops. An interesting fact is that the size of the onion bulb is dependent on the number and size of the green leaves at the time of the bulb's maturity. For each leaf there will be a ring of onion. The larger the leaf the larger the onion ring. The perfect onion has 13 rings, so we need 13 large leaves before the bulbing process begins when the carbohydrates go from the leaves to the bulb.

Here at Magnolia Mound we routinely plant two onion varieties: Yellow Granex and 1015Y Texas SuperSweet. Yellow Granex is the variety is grown in the Vidalia region of Georgia and is sold as a Vidalia onion. The 1015Y Texas SuperSweet is a very sweet (they can be baked with brown sugar and butter) taking its name from the ideal day to plant the seed, October 15.

To get those big leaves and resulting big bulbs, we plant the small plants around Thanksgiving in tilled soil that has some 13-13-13 fertilizer worked in. After 2 weeks and every 2 weeks thereafter until they start to bulb we use 33-0-0, a high nitrogen fertilizer at about 1/3 cup for every 10 feet of row. Keep the weeds out and keep them watered and let them grow. Stop watering when the onions start falling over.



Friends of Magnolia Mound Publications available at the Turner Family Visitors Center



Mochaware

By Babeth Schlegel



The Friends of Magnolia Mound owns a nice collection of dipped wares, known today as mocha ware. The bowls, cups and jugs which are periodically displayed on the dining room sideboard give our visitors the opportunity to closely examine their lovely patterns.

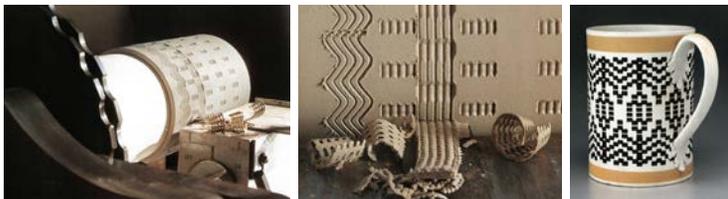
Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795), an English potter from Staffordshire, was a designer and manufacturer. He had a scientific approach to pottery making and he is known for both his exhaustive research on materials and for his sense of business. Slip (a form of a liquid clay) decoration was employed on a wide range of earthenware. Wedgwood employed the slip decoration technique to decorate both his expensive and cheap utilitarian wares. Mocha ware was called in the period, "dipped" ware. They were colorful dipped pots, mostly mugs, jugs, and bowls made for everyday use and they were meant to be functional.

Potters were experimenting with different combinations of clay flux, flint, and other materials to arrive at the perfect body composition. There was an ongoing competition amongst potters to find the perfect recipe.

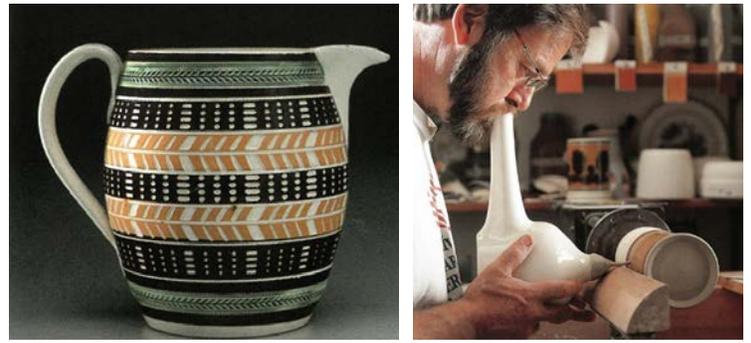
In May 28, 1764, Wedgwood wrote to Thomas Bentley (later to become his partner) about his interest with the potential offered by the engine-turning lathe that the mechanical trades had developed. This machine would allow potters to perform the technique of dicing – the cutting through the slip to reveal the body color and scraping areas free of the slip.

Turners would be able to embellish vessel surfaces with geometrical accuracy in several ways.

In one method, the leather-hard pot was placed on the lathe before the colored slip was applied, and a design was cut into the bare body. Once the cutting of the pattern finished, it was removed and dipped into a colored slip. After set-up, the pot was placed back on the machine, and the potter carefully shaved the slip away until the recessed pattern was exposed.



Ceramics in America, p117, 118 (Fig. 4, 5, 3)



Ceramics in America p116, p123 (fig. 2, 13)

Another technique was to apply colored slip bands as the pot was rotating on the lathe. While the vessel was still at the leather-hard stage, the potter would use the lathe to cut a precise pattern through the thin colored coating. The pattern would reveal the uncolored body.

A tool in form of a roulette could have been used to create an inlay pattern to a band. Carpentier and Richard mentioned that "dipped ware from the 1770 to 1840 show rouletted bands colored with copper oxide glaze." It gave a rich lustrous green from the lead content.



Close up of roulette pattern. Friends collection, donor Junior League of Baton Rouge.

Wedgwood participated considerably in the improvement of slip marbling that would create the appearance of marble. The marble decoration was achieved by pouring several colors onto the vessel's surface as it rotated slowly on the lathe. According to Carpentier and Richard, "the marble slip on the lathe looked more fluid with longer smoother divisions between shades and colors."



79.30.2 Friends collection, donor Junior League of Baton Rouge. First half of nineteenth century. English

Mocha decoration was introduced in the 1790s. London merchants of the late eighteenth century imported moss agate from Arabia, a semiprecious stone to use in jewelry. The stones were shipped through the port of Mocha ("el Mukha") in Yemen hence the name "mocha stone." Once prepared, this stone would reveal an interesting treelike or mossy pattern. This pattern was adopted as a design element to use with the slip decoration techniques. The turner used a "camel hair pencil" dipped into an acidic solution. It was called "mocha tea" by the potters. The solution was applied by lightly touching the wet slip band with the brush tip which created a chemical and physical reaction between the "tea" and the wet slip. A dendritic pattern was formed instantaneously. Introduced to the alkaline of the slip, the acidic solution created a capillary



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Ceramics in America p124 (fig. 16)



79.1 Friends collection, donor Junior League of Baton Rouge



78.22 Friends collection, donor Junior League of Baton Rouge. Early nineteenth century, English barrel form pitcher

action that formed a tree-like pattern. Most potters would have created their own recipes for the mocha solution. Carpentier and Richard mentioned that “Surviving period recipe books call for the addition, among other things, of printer’s ink, hops, tansy, and urine.”

Another slip decoration called for the use of a three-chambered slip cup. Each compartment would have been filled with a different color slip. Several patterns could have been created at the same time. A single drop created a



Carpentier three chambered slip cup, page 126-127 (Fig. 21, 23, 24)

dot of 3 colors. A series of drops overlapping each other produced a pattern that the potters referred to as “cable” or “common cable” according to Carpentier and Richard.

Carpentier and Richard mentioned that “a huge variety of these cheap, colorful utilitarian wares was available to the American consumer from the 1780s well into the 1850s.” It is amazing that any of these dipped wares, meant for daily use, survived.

Don Carpentier (1951-2014), a self-taught potter, did impressive research on slip ware decoration, first working with sherds (fragments of pottery vessels found in archaeological sites) from dipped vessels discovered at the site of a 1793 tavern. Don was able to replicate how Josiah Wedgwood’s 1768 engine turning lathe was used to reproduce intricate designs. Such sherds have been found at Magnolia Mound and we have reproduction slip decorated ware in the historic kitchen made by Don Carpentier. You can still watch Don in action in his Youtube video.

Sources:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-7twF5_chU
www.britannica.com/biography/Josiah-Wedgwood
Ceramics In American, 2001, Donald Carpentier and Jonathan Richard, “Slip Decoration in the Age of Industrialization,” page115 to 134.

Petite Antiques Forum Saturday, April 10, 2021

The Friends of Magnolia Mound’s Petite Antiques Forum will be held this spring 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 Stromeier on *Chêne Vert’s 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 *Chêne Vert*, the restored circa 1825 Creole home of Wayne and Cheryl Stromeier 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 go out in March.

Susan Wilder, *Chairman*

SAVE THE DATE!
FRIENDS OF MAGNOLIA MOUND
OPEN AIR
Petite Antiques Forum
AND GARDEN TOUR

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

Forum lecture by Dr. Wayne Stromeier on
“Chêne Vert’s Gardens: Recreating an Early Louisiana Landscape”
held in Magnolia Mound’s open-air pavilion, Le Grange.

Individual “picnic basket” lunches served in Le Grange.

Self-guided tour of the beautiful grounds and gardens of Magnolia Mound.

Tour of the outstanding gardens at Chêne Vert, a restored Creole home.



Thanks to
our sponsor

Please note: both Houses will be closed.
Masks and social distancing will be required.



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our sponsor



Tickets available for purchase March 10
at the www.friendsofmagnoli mound.org.

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.

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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.

Our New Executive Director



On behalf of the entire Board, I am excited to announce the promotion of our own Babeth Schlegel to Executive Director of the Friends of Magnolia Mound. Babeth has been a part of the Magnolia Mound family for many years and throughout her roles as Volunteer Coordinator, Collection Manager and Administrative Assistant, she has contributed greatly to the success of our organization.

We have no doubt Babeth will continue to shine as our new Executive Director and will proudly represent the organization she truly loves. Let us all congratulate Babeth on her promotion and wish her success for many more years to come.

Donna Mitchell, *President*

MK Merchant Retires



Mary Kathryn "MK" Merchant holding the Preservation Education Award presented to Magnolia Mound's Education Staff at the 2015 Louisiana State Culture Awards.

Magnolia Mound's beloved volunteer coordinator, Mary Kathryn "MK" Merchant, retired in December 2020 after a decade of service. MK's association with Magnolia Mound connection began because her mother Nancy Albritton was a volunteer house docent. Later, her son Max Merchant, attended Summer History Camp. MK joined BREC officially in January 2010 as exhibit coordinator and organized seasonal exhibits in the site's original visitor center. MK started a successful partnership with the arts program of local EBR schools. Each year Magnolia Mound would host a special exhibit and reception for these budding young artists.

In December 2012, MK became our volunteer coordinator, working with all the volunteers who help at Magnolia Mound. MK was often the first voice a new volunteer would hear and her voice-mail greeting was famous: "Magnolia Mound Loves Its Volunteers."

MK's great love was her work as educational program assistant. Education Program Specialist Ashley Freeman said, "We made such a great team. M.K. brings great enthusiasm and wisdom to everything she does, especially interacting with the school groups and history camps. Our working relationship was enhanced by our friendship. Her strength and perseverance inspire me!" MK recently shared: "My greatest joy at Magnolia Mound was how much I learned from our volunteers, staff and campers."



MK Merchant (right) with outgoing volunteer coordinator, Cindy Bennett, 2012.

Congratulations MK! You will be missed at the Mound.



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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

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.)

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

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

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

Duplantier Society \$1,000 Constance Joyce Duplantier Circle \$2,500 Armand Allard Duplantier Circle \$5000

Marquis de Lafayette Circle \$10,000 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 45848, Baton Rouge, LA 70895



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