

Notes from the Center

2007 Heritage Harvest Festival A Major Success

When we first envisioned hosting an event at Tufton Farm that would bring together a regional community of seed savers, heirloom plant preservationists, and sustainable gardening proponents, we hoped for an attendance of around 500. Much to our surprise, an estimated crowd of 2,000 arrived, many of whom traveled from as far away as Maine, Florida, the Carolinas, Illinois, and Iowa. With help from Ira Wallace and the staff of Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, who first proposed the idea to CHP, word spread to a far ranging group of like-minded individuals and organizations across the country. Dozens of Master Gardeners in the Piedmont Virginia region



ELIZABETH CAREY: THE
Peggy Cornett, CHP Director, introduces nursery manager Dennis Whetzel before his workshop on making herbal potpourri with heirloom flowers.

Throughout the day a plethora of workshops demonstrated ways for creating butterfly gardens, cultivating woodland medicinal plants, growing heirloom garlic and onions, and making authentic, 18th-century herbal potpourri with heirloom flowers and rose petals. Michael Twitty discussed African-American heirloom plants and cross-cultural links with Native American and European gardening traditions. Dr. Richard (a.k.a. "Dr. McBug") McDonald described integrated pest management techniques for farming and landscaping and led a bug walk through the Tufton Nursery. Diane Ott Whealy, co-founder of the renowned Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa, gave the keynote presentation on saving seeds for the future and then offered a hands-on demonstration of squash varieties and seed saving methods.

In addition to the educational programs, a variety of food and plant vendors

workshops and hands-on activities designed to educate and entertain.

Participants had a unique opportunity to interact with a host of experts, including some of the leading figures in the organic gardening and heirloom seed-preservation



JOAN MAZZA
A plethora of local tomatoes and peppers on display.

generously volunteered to make the day an unqualified success. The setting was ideal for a hot September day, with tents and displays scattered beneath the towering ash and sugar maple trees on the Tufton Farm property. It was truly a festive atmosphere with all sorts of family-oriented



LAUREN CAPRIO
The 2007 Heritage Harvest Festival was a huge success with almost 2000 participants visiting our Tufton farm location on a beautiful summer afternoon to learn more about and sample local foods.

offered free samples and opportunities to taste and compare dozens of tomato varieties. By all accounts, it was an unqualified success.

Historic Plants Symposium '08: 'Fruits, Roots, and Leaves'—Revolutionary Gardeners and Heritage Harvests

The response to the festival of 2007 was so positive that Monticello has committed to holding it again in 2008 and possibly making it an annual autumn event at Tufton Farm. However, our next biennial Historic Plants Symposium is also on the calendar for September 2008. Therefore, rather than choosing one over the other, we decided to link the two events.

We modified the format such that the formal symposium at the Jefferson Library and the reception at Monticello take place all on one day, Friday, September 5. The festival portion occurs on the following day, Saturday, September 6. While the events will flow seamlessly, they are two

distinct programs. The Historic Plants Symposium requires registration and we recommend pre-payment by credit card or check. Featured speakers for the symposium are Dr. Arthur O. Tucker, research professor at Delaware State University and author of *The Big Book of Herbs*; Andrew Smith, author of *The Tomato in America*; apple enthusiast Ben Watson, author of *Cider, Hard and Sweet*; Colonial Williamsburg's garden historian Wesley Greene, who returns from



our 2006 event; and Peter Hatch. The Friday evening activities will include tours of Monticello and a reception on the West Lawn, where we will enjoy informal remarks by nationally known speaker Felder Rushing, author of *Passalong Plants*. Refer to our



DANA CAPPS : THE

CHP staff and volunteers in 2007, (front) Rebecca Belt, Dennis Whetzel, Peggy Cornett, Terri Keffert, Cecile Gorham, and Leslie Stone ;(back) Patrick Keller and Marc McVicker

Web site often for updates on the symposium as well as for the Heritage Harvest Festival. We will mail registration brochures for the symposium in late spring and they will become available online.

2008 Heritage Harvest Festival at Tufton Farm

This year's Second Annual Heritage Harvest Festival takes place Saturday, September 6 with a daylong series of workshops, demonstrations, and presentations. The Festival highlights the efforts of non-profit organizations promoting organic gardening, the preservation of traditional agriculture, and regional food. Throughout the day, a plethora of workshops will demonstrate ways for creating butterfly gardens, cultivating woodland medicinal plants, cider making, growing heirloom garlic and onions, making authentic, 18th-century herbal potpourri with heirloom flowers and rose petals, and creating a rain garden. The event features noted experts in a variety of fields,

and includes: heirloom apple authority Tom Burford; rare herb specialist Cyrus Hyde; heirloom tomato enthusiast Craig LeHoullier; Jeff McCormack, owner of Garden Medicinals Seeds; Michael Twitty on Historic African American Foodways, and two symposium speakers—Dr. Art Tucker and Felder Rushing. CHP staff members will offer tours of the nursery throughout the day and plants will be available for sale. Southern Exposure Seed Exchange co-sponsors this popular event, and dedicated volunteers from many of Virginia's Master Gardeners in the Piedmont region help with and support the day's programs. For additional information and details about speakers and presentations, visit, www.HeritageHarvestFestival.com and the Monticello Web site.

Open House at Tufton Farm on May 24

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bell Rose Garden, and to honor this

occasion, Douglas T. Seidel will give a presentation on "The Legacy of Léonie Bell" at Monticello's Jefferson Library. The Bell Garden is a representative collection emphasizing the evolution and development of Noisette roses in the early nineteenth century. Rev. Seidel, a student of Mrs. Bell, originally proposed the establishment of the rose collection, and her husband, the late Louis Bell, provided the initial funding for the project. Landscape historian C. Allan Brown designed this special garden. For more information, call (434) 984-9816 or visit www.monticello.org

Twelfth Annual Historic Landscape Institute

"Preserving Jefferson's Landscapes and Gardens," a two-week program, held June 15-27, allows participants to live on the historic Lawn of the University of Virginia while attending an intensive curriculum focusing on Jefferson's landscapes and gardens. Lectures, workshops, field trips, and hands-on working experiences with Monticello and university gardeners introduce the fields of landscape history, garden restoration, and historical horticulture. For more information, contact Peter Hatch, (434) 984-9836; phatch@monticello.org; www.monticello.org.

Temporary Garden Shop Site for 2008 Season

If you have not visited Monticello in a few years and are looking for our Garden Shop under the yellow-and-white tent, you are in for a surprise. A 42,000-square-foot Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith History Center now stands on the site once occupied by the old Shuttle Station, ticket office, and CHP's plant sales area. Designed by Ayers/Saint/Gross of Baltimore with many environmentally sensitive features, including a "green roof," the new Visitor Center opens in November 2008. During the summer of

2008, the Garden Shop will remain in its temporary location adjacent to the interim ticket office for a second season. This site, shaded by a large sugar maple, offers easy access to visitor parking. The new Museum and Garden store will allow CHP to maintain a year-round



CHARLES SUDARATH KELLY : THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Bagatelle, one of Jefferson's favorite gardens in Paris, clearly influenced his understanding of landscape design.

indoor sales area for the first time, and we are looking forward to offering winter-blooming, indoor plants such as geraniums, citrus, sweet acacia, and many unusual Jefferson-era South African bulbs.

More Online at Twinleaf.org

The Monticello Web site continues to break records in numbers of hits, discreet visitors, and average length of time spent on the site. You can access the CHP pages by clicking on Gardens and Grounds and following the links on the right column to the center. For a more direct means, simply type www.twinleaf.org. We continue to update our site with pdf versions of past *Twinleaf* issues and new articles, including Monticello gardener Lily Fox-Bruguiere's paper, "Jefferson in France," on the landscapes that influenced Thomas Jefferson while living in Paris during the 1780s. To access the seed and plant mail-order pages, go to the monticello.org home page and click "Shop" on the red banner at the top of the page.