

# GARDEN CITINGS



SPRING 2025

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Celebrating  
50 Years  
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# GARDEN CITINGS

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**ON COVER** Plate 6 from John Fisk Allen's *Victoria Regia or The Great Water Lily of America. With a Brief Account of its Discovery and Introduction into Cultivation*. With illustrations by William Sharp.  
Boston: Dutton and Wentworth, 1854.

# 04

THE CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS & GROWING

---

# 08

FROM THESE SEEDS, A GARDEN LIBRARY GREW: REFLECTING ON CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY'S FIRST MAJOR ACQUISITION

---

# 12

ASHLEY WRIGHT MCINTYRE LECTURE: BILL WALTON, "THE OYSTER AQUACULTURE REVOLUTION IN THE SOUTHERN U.S."

---

# 14

DOGWOODS: ARISTOCRATS OF THE GARDEN

---

# 18

PERPETUAL SEGREGATION: CHRONICLING THE BLACK SIDE OF ATLANTA'S OAKLAND CEMETERY

---

# 22

WELCOMING CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

---

# 28

TRILLIUMS: HARBINGERS OF SPRING

---

# 32

GIFTS & TRIBUTES TO THE CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY

---

# 38

BOOK, MANUSCRIPT, AND VISUAL ARTS DONATIONS

---





CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



THE CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY  
CELEBRATES

# 50 Years & Growing

with Renowned Interior Designer  
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On **Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 7 p.m.**, we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cherokee Garden Library, a growing collection of 40,000 rare and contemporary works telling the diverse and meaningful stories of people and plants that have shaped the Southeastern United States and beyond. Chaired by Carter Morris and Melissa Wright, this festive soirée is open to the public through ticket sales. The event features a lively lecture and book signing with Charlotte Moss, followed by a cocktail reception with music by Joe Gransden. All net proceeds raised through the event will support a seminal rare book acquisition for the Cherokee Garden Library, enhancing its nationally recognized collection.

For tickets, [atlantahistorycenter.com](https://atlantahistorycenter.com).

We are grateful for our generous sponsors and patrons who contributed between August 1, 2024, to March 27, 2025.



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*Drawn from Nature by W.P.C. Barton.*

*Engraved by C. Tiebout.*

GENTIANA SAPONARIA.

# From these Seeds, a Garden Library Grew: Reflecting on Cherokee Garden Library's First Major Acquisition

**BY JENNIE OLDFIELD**  
Senior Technical Librarian  
and Supervisory Archivist  
and **GINNY VAN WINKLE**,  
Project Archivist and  
Outreach Assistant

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cherokee Garden Library, it's fascinating to revisit the first seminal acquisition that elevated the Library to be today's renowned destination for historic horticultural research in the Southeast. The cornerstone of the Library's book collection was the visionary 1977 acquisition of the Elisabeth Woodburn Collection, a significant treasure trove of 17th and 18th-century historic books purchased from Elisabeth H. Woodburn, a distinguished New Jersey collector of rare horticultural books. Through 10 years of collecting, Woodburn amassed a garden library with a robust range of topics. These impressive volumes, dating from 1634 to 1900, trace the history of American horticulture and cover topics such as garden history, horticultural heritage, pomology, and medical botany. Woodburn's collection provides patrons from scholars to home gardeners with the foundation for conducting horticultural research.



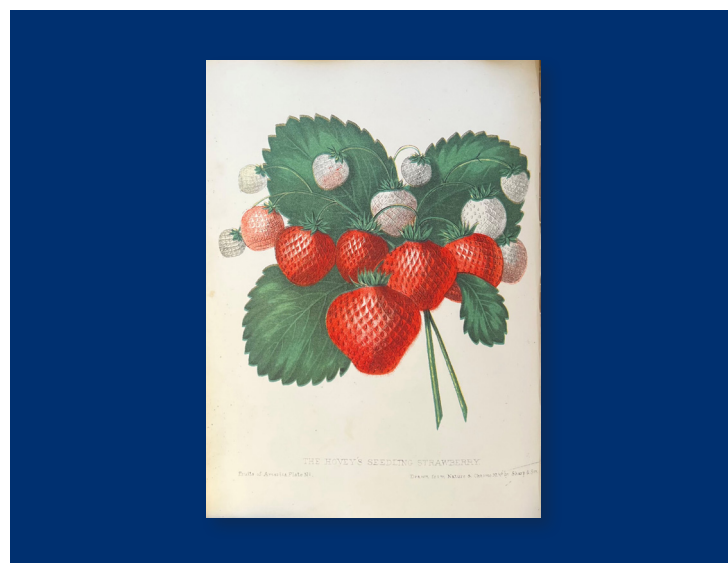
## Highlights from the Elisabeth Woodburn Collection:



*American Medical Botany: being a collection of the native medicinal plants of the United States.* Jacob Bigelow, MD. Three volumes, Boston: Cummings and Hilliard, 1817–1820.

LEFT Plate XXXI, *Liriodendron tulipifera* or tulip tree (also called tulip poplar) and description page from Jacob Bigelow's *American Medical Botany*, Volume 2, 1818.

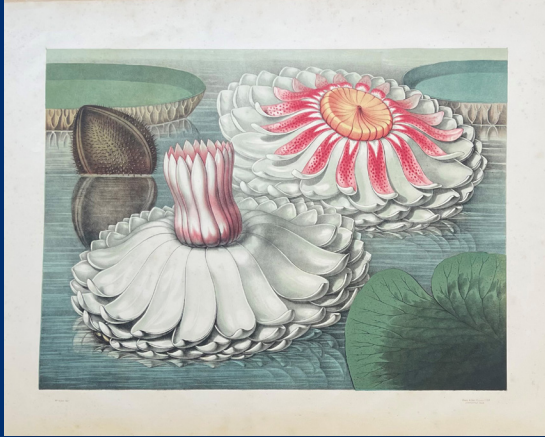
American physician and botanist Jacob Bigelow compiled native plants of the United States in this important three-volume set that includes sixty colored-plates of plants and their seeds, roots, and tubers, along with their medicinal uses. *American Medical Botany* is unique in the use of color-printed plates, rather than hand-colored as was the standard process of the time.



*The Fruits of America, containing richly colored figures and full descriptions of all the choicest varieties cultivated in the United States.* Charles Mason Hovey. Two volumes, Boston: C.C. Little & J. Brown and Hovey & Co.; New York: Appleton & Co., 1848–1856.

LEFT The Hovey's Seedling Strawberry from Charles Hovey's *The Fruits of America*, Volume 1, 1848.

This essential pomology reference guide provides highlights of fruit trees and their cultivation in the United States. This two-volume set includes stunning examples of chromolithography by lithographer William Sharp, credited with bringing the craft to the United States in 1840.



*Victoria Regia or The Great Water Lily of America. With a Brief Account of its Discovery and Introduction into Cultivation.* John Fisk Allen, with illustrations by William Sharp. Boston: Dutton and Wentworth, 1854.

LEFT Plate 4, intermediate stages of bloom, from John Fisk Allen's *Victoria Regia*, 1854.

Measuring 70 centimeters, *Victoria Regia* is one of the largest folios in the Garden Library. This stunning treasure includes descriptions and six striking chromolithographs of specimens of water lily which were first cultivated in the United States by the Delaware River. Illustrator and lithographer William Sharp perfected the art of chromolithography in this masterpiece.

*A Flora of North America.* William Paul Crillon Barton, MD. Three volumes, Philadelphia: M. Carey & Sons, 1820-1823.

PAGE 8 Table 79, *Gentiana saponaria* or soapwort gentian from William Barton's *A Flora of North America*, Volume 3, 1823.

*A Flora of North America* offers the reader a comprehensive botanical resource that contains both Latin and common names, Linnaean system class and order, in addition to details of European discovery and species distribution. This impressive three-volume set, known to be one of the earliest entirely produced in the United States, includes 106 beautiful color plates and was the first successful use of stipple engraving.

We invite you to explore these treasures and others in the Cherokee Garden Library of the Kenan Research Center, open by appointment Wednesday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Contact us to set up your next visit at [reference@atlantahistorycenter.com](mailto:reference@atlantahistorycenter.com) or by calling 404.814.4040. We look forward to seeing you soon!



# Bill Walton, “The Oyster Aquaculture Revolution in the Southern U.S.”



Bill Walton, aka Dr. Oyster, will present the Ashley Wright McIntyre Lecture on October 22, 2025. *Image courtesy of William C. Walton, Ph.D.*

There has been a sea change along the coastline of the southern United States from North Carolina around to Texas in the world of oysters. While the proud tradition of harvesting wild oysters from reefs or raking them up off private oyster beds continues, a cadre of hardworking, innovative oyster farmers have embraced growing oysters off the bottom. This revolutionary method of ‘off-bottom oyster farming’ has allowed these growers to handcraft oyster varieties that reflect the combination of the water they are grown in and the arduous work of the growers.

Bill Walton, Acuff Professor of Marine Science at William & Mary’s Batten School and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, will tell the story of off-bottom oyster farming in the southern United States and how it got its start about 15 years ago—and grown from a handful of states to off-bottom oyster farming in every southern coastal state. Bill will also dive into how oyster aquaculture creates jobs in rural coastal communities, improving our coastal environments, reinforcing cultural values—and also producing world-class oysters.

## About the Speaker

William C. “Bill” Walton is the A. Marshall Acuff, Sr. Professor of Marine Science & Shellfish Aquaculture Program Coordinator at the William & Mary Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences. He is based at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, Virginia. He mentors several students and teaches graduate courses focused on shellfish aquaculture, while also directing a one-acre working shellfish farm for research and demonstration. He conducts applied research with local shellfish farmers, resource managers, and national and local organizations addressing challenges and opportunities for shellfish aquaculture in Virginia and the United States. His interests include all aspects of shellfish aquaculture, including opportunities for public fisheries and restoration.

Bill earned his Bachelor of Science at Tufts University, his Master of Science in Ecology & Evolution at Rutgers University, and his Ph.D. in Fisheries Science at the University of Maryland. He’s served as the Shellfish Constable & Marine Biologist in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, co-owned and operated a small shellfish farm in Eastham, Massachusetts, and an oyster raw bar catering business in Daphne, Alabama, both with his wife, Beth. Prior to his current position, he was an Extension Specialist at Cape Cod Cooperative Extension & Woods Hole Sea Grant and then a professor at Auburn University’s School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences. He also serves on the board of directors of Oyster South.

2025

# SAVE THE DATE

CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY'S  
*ASHLEY WRIGHT MCINTYRE LECTURE*

# WEDNESDAY

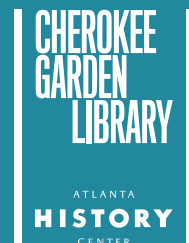
OCTOBER 22, 2025, 7:00 PM

BILL WALTON, PH.D.  
“THE OYSTER AQUACULTURE  
REVOLUTION IN THE  
SOUTHERN U.S.”

LECTURE FOLLOWED BY AN OYSTER ROAST

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FORTHCOMING

THIS SPECIAL EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE  
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# Dogwoods: Aristocrats of the Garden

BY  
LOUISE  
WRINKLE







LEFT Native flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) at 2 Beechwood Road.

When I write about plants that interest me, I recently seem to concentrate on trees. One of my favorites here in the South has always been the native flowering dogwood, or *Cornus florida*, referred to by American horticulturist, professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, and author Michael Dirr as “the aristocrat of native flowering trees.”

In 1938, when my family moved to Beechwood Road in Birmingham, Alabama, the spring woods were filled with clouds of white provided by this native treasure. My parents would even throw parties so their friends could enjoy this sight. As an indication of its popularity, Dirr’s Sixth Edition of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* lists eighty-five cultivars of this species.

But this treasure was not to last. For decades following our arrival here, a fungal blight called dogwood anthracnose has wreaked havoc on these trees. It is a fungus which thrives in damp, warm conditions, and these trees do not seem to have fully recovered, or perhaps their true lifecycle is revealed at about 70 years.

A beautiful substitute for *Cornus florida* is *Cornus kousa*, commonly known as Kousa dogwood. It grows into a graceful 25-30’ deciduous tree exhibiting a stratified branching pattern that develops into horizontal layering with age. Showy white bracts surround a clump of the center’s true flowers and appear on the ends of branches in late May and into June. When open, these bracts produce pointed outer edges, different from the familiar blunt edges of *C. florida* with the dark mark.

We formerly thought of dogwoods as “edge of the forest” trees and needing at least half a day of shade. Now, we know adequate sun in a planting location will reward the owner with a spectacular bloom display for several weeks. Fruits of the *C. kousa* resemble ripe strawberries and are said to be edible; and fall leaf colors are various shades of scarlet and red. Twenty-six cultivars are included in Dirr’s Sixth Edition of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*.

*Cornus mas* or Cornelian cherry dogwood is another species that might not be familiar to most. It is a small, deciduous tree, blooming with yellow puffs on laterally spreading branches in February/March and offering a beautiful sight when nothing else besides bulbs are blooming. There are other species of *Cornus*, including *Cornus sericea* or red twig dogwood. I see dramatic color photos of them in nursery catalogues, whose claim to glory seems to be the new growth from cut-back stems, exhibiting colors of red or yellow. Maybe I should try them sometime around my pond!



My newest discovery (and my new best friend) is the evergreen dogwood, or *Cornus capitata*. As its name indicates, it holds its leaves rather than shedding them in fall, and it lacks the fall color of *Cornus florida*. This new-to-me selection rewards us with May/June terminal white blooms (actually pointy bracts) and fall fruits like strawberries, both similar to those of *C. kousa*. I must admit to severe damage to my juvenile specimens of these evergreens in the last two severe winters in Birmingham, but the mature one in my stone circle is 25 years old, over 20 feet high, and only suffered bud scald.

The *Cornus capitata* is hard to find, but perhaps if we ask for it by name of our nursery owners, they will get the message and pass our requests on to the growers. A catch-22 in nursery plants is that nurseries tend to offer a range of common plants: boxwood, evergreen holly, juniper, and camellia. A restricted list of plants is what nurseries can be sure of selling, and they seldom get requests for more unusual ones like *Pieris*, *Leucothoe*, *Edgeworthia*, or deciduous holly. If they were asked to expand their repertoire, I'm sure they would gladly oblige. So next time you're at your local nursery surprise them and ask for something they are not expecting!

In horticulture, like life, we can't expect everything to remain the same. Taxonomists seem to delight in upsetting our comfort zone by changing the botanical names and affiliations of long accepted plants. According to Alan S. Weakley and the Southeastern Flora Team's "Flora of the Southeastern United States," found on the North Carolina Botanical Garden's website and other reliable sources, many names in *Cornus* have been changed. The flowering dogwoods, *Cornus florida* and *Cornus kousa*, have become *Benthamidia florida* and *Benthamidia japonica*. Pagoda dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia*, has become *Swida alternifolia*. Others, like red twig and shrubby dogwoods, have also been changed to *Swida*. Name changes take time to be accepted. I have no idea what has become of *Cornus capitata* but *Cornus* still carries a lot of weight. As much as we dislike it, we need to stay up with the times.

PAGE 14 In June, white bracts cover the evergreen dogwood tree (*Cornus capitata*) inside a ring of variegated hostas.

RIGHT Evergreen dogwood (*Cornus capitata*).

All images and captions are courtesy of Louise Wrinkle, *Listen to the Land: Creating a Southern Woodland Garden*. Birmingham, AL: PMT Publishing, 2017.

## Resources

For more information, consult these helpful volumes in the Cherokee Garden Library and the Flora of the Southeastern United States Web App or Site:

Cappiello, Paul and Don Shadow. *Dogwoods: The Genus Cornus*. Portland: Timber Press, 2005.

Dirr, Michael. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Sixth Edition. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing, L.L.C., 2009.

Weakley, A.S., and Southeastern Flora Team. 2025. Flora of the Southeastern United States Web App. University of North Carolina Herbarium, North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, U.S.A. [fsus.ncbg.unc.edu](https://www.ncbg.unc.edu). Accessed Feb 25, 2025.

## Louise Wrinkle

Louise Wrinkle was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1931 in the midst of The Great Depression. Like many young girls, she was born with a strong interest in horses but did not acquire a horse until she was over 35 years old. Equestrian play and competitions were an important part of her and her daughters' activities during their growing-up years.

Later, a sharp turnaround changed her outlook from horses to horticulture. By force of pure nepotism, she was invited to join her mother's garden club, The Little Garden Club of Birmingham, the local affiliate of The Garden Club of America (GCA). Soon enough, she found herself engaged with regional and later national responsibilities to the GCA. Through the years, her interest was reflected by her leadership of the Horticulture Committee, followed by service on the Executive Committee. In 2001, she received the GCA National Achievement Medal. In 2019, she received the Placemaker Award from the Foundation for Landscape Studies.

In 2017, at 87, she published a book, *Listen to the Land*, reflecting her thirty years of experience developing her two ½ acre inherited woodland property into a notable natural garden. Here, she shares her successes and failures and *emphasizes* her admonition of letting the land speak for itself rather than having some style of landscape design imposed upon it. Louise Wrinkle continues to nurture and enjoy her garden.

In 2024, The Garden Conservancy celebrated Birmingham Gardens and premiered *A Garden in Conversation: Louise Agee Wrinkle's Southern Woodland Sanctuary*. The documentary film explores the rich story of Wrinkle's Southern Woodland Garden in Mountain Brook, Alabama.

To view the film, visit: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/films/garden-in-conversation>

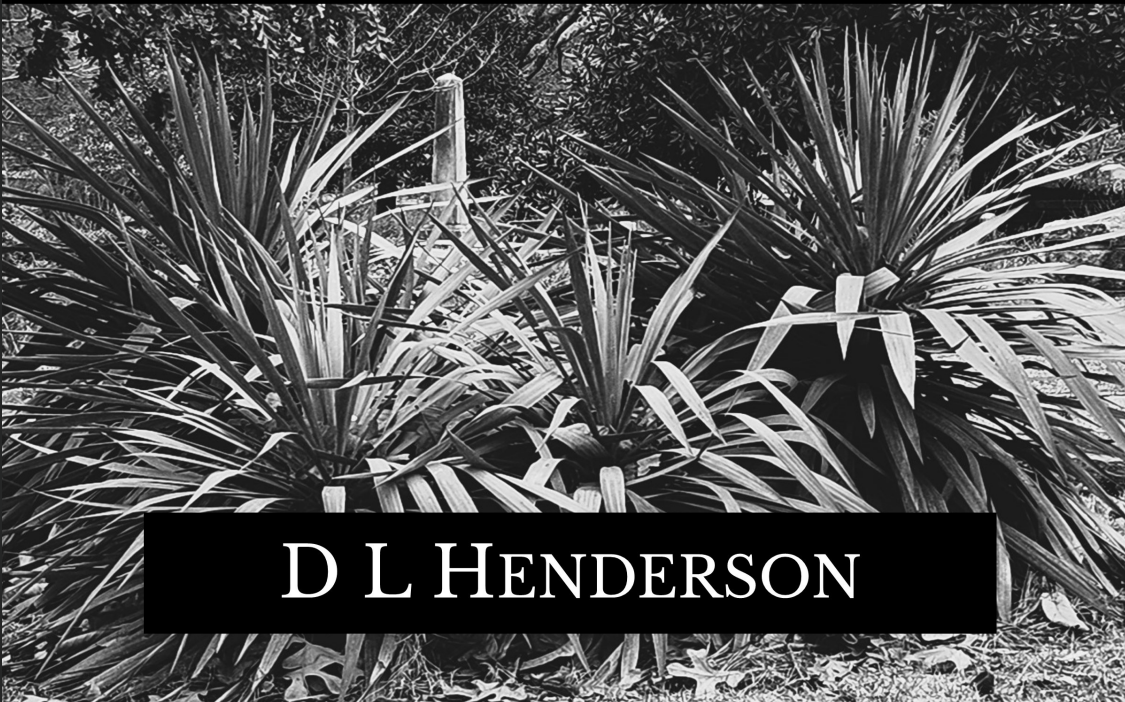






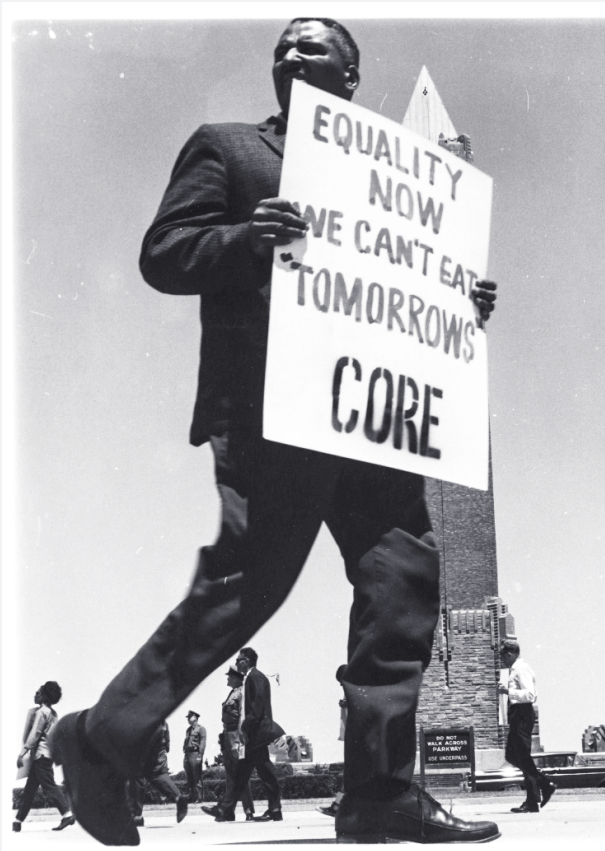
# PERPETUAL SEGREGATION

CHRONICLING THE BLACK SIDE OF  
ATLANTA'S OAKLAND CEMETERY



D L HENDERSON

*Most Georgia enslavers held fewer than six persons in slavery. Thus, the farmer was already outside the norm for the state, but by 1860, he would hold title to eleven enslaved people, including five children aged fifteen and under. According to the 1860 U.S. agricultural census, he had increased his land holdings to four hundred acres during the previous ten years. The people he held in slavery would have been a significant factor in planting and harvesting the crops the farm produced on his 150 “improved” acres in 1860—125 bushels of wheat, 1000 bushels of corn, and 50 bushels of oats. Oakland’s interment records show that the white farmer buried at least four enslaved people on the Black side of the city cemetery. Six-year-old Wash died of typhoid fever in 1857. In 1863, fifty-year-old Sarah died of dropsy, and seventy-year-old Tom died of pneumonia. An unidentified sixteen-year-old died in 1864 (no cause of death listed). Since 1850, more than 12,000 people have been buried on the Black side of Oakland.*



19





ABOVE These Black women volunteered with the Red Cross in Atlanta to support Black soldiers going to and returning from World War I. Image from William A. Sweeney's *History of the American Negro in the Great World War*. Chicago, IL: G. G. Sapp, 1919.

In 1894, Rev. Edward R. Carter published *The Black Side: A Partial History of the Business, Religious, and Educational Side of the Negro in Atlanta, Ga.* This was Carter's second book on the history of Black residents in Atlanta. His first book, *Our Pulpit Illustrated*, published in 1888, featured biographical accounts of clergy and laypersons in Atlanta's Black churches. Carter's books provide a solid historical foundation for studying Black life in Atlanta. I have extensively incorporated the biographical information from his oral history research in compiling *Perpetual Segregation*. The inspiration and title for my book are based on Carter's depiction of "the Black Side" of Atlanta, a term he used to refer to the Black people of the city and the lives of many Atlantans who now rest on "the Black side" of Oakland within the cemetery's historically Black burial ground. Just as tradition and law restricted the choices of early Black Atlantans during their lifetimes, traditional burial practices and segregation ordinances controlled their deaths and burials. Within its cemeteries, the City of Atlanta enforced racial segregation even in death.

*Perpetual Segregation* imparts a unique perspective on the history of Atlanta by focusing on the lives of its Black residents, in life and death. The perpetual segregation of Black and white bodies in Oakland recalls a painful and shameful past; yet, if we do not know our history, we will not know when we are repeating it. My research interest in funerary history, art, and architecture stems from a lifelong passion for old cemeteries. As a volunteer for the Historic Oakland Foundation since 2000, I have researched and written multiple walking tours, which include "We Shall Overcome: African American Stories from Civil War to Civil Rights," "Death and Dying in 19th Century Atlanta," "The Art and Architecture of Death," "Oakland's Resident Writers," "History, Mystery, and Mayhem," and "Black Magnolias: A Celebration of African American Women in Atlanta History." Research for these tours and other cemetery

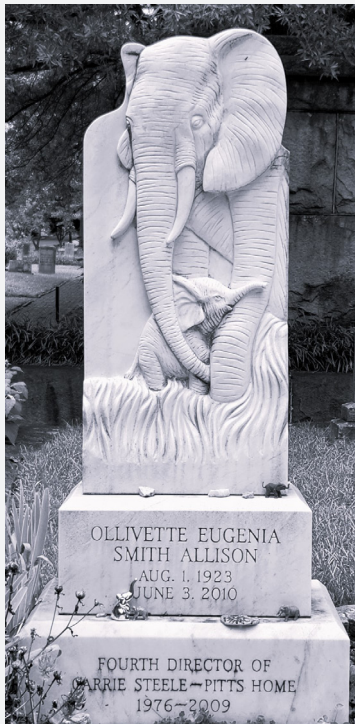
projects prompted me to study the parallels between the physical development of Oakland Cemetery and the social development of Atlanta from the nineteenth century to the present.

Afrocentric histories like those produced by E. R. Carter are essential cultural resources. Afrocentric histories embrace diversity of experience, correct inaccurate and flawed cultural interpretations, and expose the "factual" yet not "truthful" representations of historical data. Too often, even well-intentioned "inclusive histories" are not genuinely diverse, and many history books are incomplete or inaccurate because they rely on "outsider" perspectives that do not appropriately address culturally specific circumstances. Afrocentric histories like *Perpetual Segregation* and any culturally specific history can provide a corrective balance. Moreover, a specific cultural focus allows for more detailed and concentrated content and a deeper, more thorough cultural examination and analysis.

A culturally informed approach is necessary to analyze sacred sites of ancestral memory, such as the Black side of Oakland cemetery. The cultural landscape of graveyards and burial grounds—their natural topography, artifacts, and human associations—creates a sacred space of history and memory within the broader cultural landscape of Black America. As a site of memory, the Black side is a repository of culture and community that connects the present to the past for those who are willing to examine and reclaim it. A site of memory invites reflection upon our ancestral connections and reveals how time and distance influence the way we remember the past and honor our dead. Investigating the cultural landscape of the cemetery exposes the symbolically buried and unacknowledged history of Black people and the place they inhabited in life and death.

Oakland is a microcosm of Atlanta, reflecting the city's history and its people. Likewise, the Black side of Oakland is a microcosm of Black life in Atlanta, and Black history is inextricably bound to the history of the city. Vestiges of slavery, the policies and politics of discrimination, and the racial inequities of justice and opportunity are reflected in the landscape of the South and its cemeteries. The City of Atlanta held power over the cemetery landscape and the bodies buried within it, and the City Council chose how the cemetery landscape would be managed by using Atlanta's segregation laws and policies to regulate burials. Those choices reflected and reinforced the historically drawn color lines in the city and the cemetery. As a Jim Crow cemetery, Oakland embodies Atlanta's historical patterns of segregation.

The Black residents of Oakland Cemetery are a diverse group of Atlantans who demonstrated remarkable courage, tenacity, and resilience throughout history. They include Africans kidnapped and sold away from their home countries, first-generation Americans of African descent born into slavery, emancipated people who became American citizens, first-generation free-born children, and their descendants. From slavery to freedom, through Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era, during the Civil Rights Movement, and beyond, the changing status and



**LEFT TO RIGHT** Ollivette Eugenia Smith Allison (1923-2010) was the director of the Carrie Steele-Pitts Home for children. The elephant mother and child symbolize her belief that we should all be caretakers of children in need, just as adult elephants often take care of and protect orphaned calves.

Augustus Thompson (1837-1910) operated a blacksmith shop in downtown Atlanta. The three interlinked rings on his grave marker indicated he was a member of the Odd Fellows fraternal order.

Mayor Maynard Holbrook Jackson (1938-2003), Atlanta's first Black mayor.

*All images courtesy of Dr. DL Henderson.*

circumstances of Black life in Atlanta can be mapped in the geography and physical characteristics of Oakland Cemetery. The physical development of Oakland through time has been impacted by social, political, and economic influences on the city and its Black population. This tangible historical record in the cemetery's landscape can be used to trace the effect of issues and events in local, state, regional, and national race relations.

Continuing changes to Oakland's landscape, including past and current preservation and restoration efforts, have obscured some of history's physical evidence of the impact of segregation. Nonetheless, it is still possible to build a more complete record of the development of Oakland's landscape by researching the history of its Black residents. *Perpetual Segregation* is an Afrocentric history, and some may question the need for "separate" histories like this one. However, it seems to me that researching the unique perceptions and experiences that represent the various cultures and histories of the people who make up our diverse nation will always be appropriate, relevant, and necessary. Recovering this hidden legacy argues against the racial bias inherent in much of Atlanta's recorded local history. To ensure all voices are integrated into our historical narratives, histories like *Perpetual Segregation* are crucial for enhancing our understanding of the historical development of America and ourselves as Americans.

The restoration of the Black side of Oakland Cemetery was completed in 2022 following years of labor on the hardscape and landscape and accompanying research into the lives of its residents. Though some restoration work had been conducted over the years, the multi-year restoration was the most extensive project ever conducted in this part of the cemetery. The Historic

Oakland Foundation's efforts to restore the historic hardscape and gardens of Oakland allow cemetery visitors to experience a beautiful and peaceful park setting, like the heavenly garden on earth that some Victorian Atlantans envisioned. However, the rejuvenation of Oakland's landscape also attracts heritage tourists seeking an authentic experience of history, not just pleasing scenery. As the stories of residents on the Black side of Oakland illustrate, if we are not vigilant in preserving the facts of the past, they will eventually become lost to us.

Oakland's history must continue to be preserved and shared using informed approaches to research and interpretation and by providing culturally accurate programming for the public. Otherwise, cemetery visitors will enjoy a beautiful setting but fail to appreciate the complex historical and social influences that shaped the physical cemetery landscape and the cultural landscape of Atlanta. The Historic Oakland Foundation continues to move forward in its efforts to preserve the cemetery and the history of all its residents.

**NOTE** The Kenan Research Center holds a copy of Rev. Edward R. Carter's *The Black Side: A Partial History of the Business, Religious, and Educational Side of the Negro in Atlanta, Ga.*, published in Atlanta, Georgia in 1894.



# WELCOMING CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

COMPILED BY  
STACIL CATRON, Cherokee Garden Library Senior Director

The Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board comprises thirty community members who work year-round with the professional Library staff to fulfill the Library's core goals—to serve, collect, conserve, present, and ensure its future by providing a sound financial basis. Essential components of our work are to foster equity, inclusion, and diversity and to be a relevant educational resource for the public.

The Library thanks our retiring Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board members. We value their expertise and will continue to call on them for guidance as part of the Cherokee Garden Library family. We sincerely thank **Helen Bost, Jenny Cruse-Sanders, Claire Schwahn, and Rosa Sumter**, who have completed their terms of service as Advisory Board Members. As is our tradition, we honor them and their significant contributions to the Library by acquiring a book in each person's name for the collection.

Beginning May 2, 2025, we welcome the Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board members' incoming class and Executive Committee. We are delighted to announce that **Elise Drake** is the new Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board Chair. Our deepest gratitude to **Blair Robbins** for her remarkable service as Advisory Board Chair over the past two years, helping elevate the work of the Cherokee Garden Library.

The **Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board Executive Committee** includes:

Elise Drake, Chair,  
Claire Reid, Vice-Chair,  
Mary Moore, Secretary,  
Jim Landon, Development and Finance Chair,  
and Blair Robbins, Immediate Past Chair.

# Cherokee Garden Library Incoming Advisory Board Members



## Adelaide Burton

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Adelaide Ward Burton completed her Master of Business Administration at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. Adelaide worked in institutional equity sales, first with Kidder Peabody and later with First Boston. In 2000, she opened Forward Interiors, an interior design firm, collaborating with clients on home, lake, and commercial projects. Adelaide is an active member of the Cherokee Garden Club and served as its president from 2015 to 2017. She is a member of the 19th Century History Class in Atlanta, recently serving as the organization's president from 2019 to 2021. She has served on the Atlanta Speech School Board and is currently on the Garden Committee for All Saints Episcopal Church. Adelaide is married to Dal Burton, and they have four children. She returns to the Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board to share her enthusiasm and many talents.



## Sharon Cole

Born in Atlanta, Sharon Jones Cole spent her early years in Charlotte, North Carolina. Upon graduating from Charlotte Country Day School, she returned to Atlanta as an Agnes Scott College student where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Sharon is a member of one of Atlanta's oldest garden clubs, the Rose Garden Club. Sharon and her husband, Matt, have two adult children—a daughter living in Alexandria, Virginia, and a son who lives near Atlanta. The Coles enjoy spending time in Cashiers, North Carolina. Sharon enjoys playing bridge and is an avid reader in her spare time. She is involved with the Peachtree Hills Place community, where she is charged with oversight of maintenance, landscaping, and security. In the past few years, Sharon made the decision to “roll-off” all the philanthropic boards on which she served, but she found the call to return to the Advisory Board of the Cherokee Garden Library irresistible!





## Marc Galbraith

Marc Galbraith is the founder and president of Galbraith Grounds Management (GGM), a premier landscaping firm known for its expertise in caring for and preserving Atlanta's most exceptional residential estates. Marc is originally from California but was raised in South Florida. He discovered his passion for landscape architecture while attending the University of Georgia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in the same. Marc spent the first four years of his career in the golf course design industry. In 2001 he went on to start GGM with a commitment to enhance and maintain some of the city's most illustrious properties. Throughout his time leading GGM, he is most proud of the company's work on the Mansfield Residence on Andrews Drive and the Balentine Residence on Habersham Road, sharing that both properties "feature beautiful historic homes, wonderful clients, and dynamic landscapes." Marc deeply values the trust his clients place in GGM to steward these exceptional properties. Marc currently resides in Atlanta with his wife and two daughters. He is honored to serve on the Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board and looks forward to learning from fellow board members, contributing to the board's mission of preserving and sharing the rich history of Southern landscapes, and deepening his appreciation for historic gardens.



## Richard Harker

Dr. Richard J. W. Harker is the President and CEO of Historic Oakland Foundation (HOF) at historic Oakland Cemetery, in Atlanta, Georgia. Richard has a Ph.D. in History from Georgia State University and a Master's Degree in History from Durham University, England, and as well as from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Prior to working at HOF, Richard worked at the Museum of History & Holocaust Education at Kennesaw State University, in Kennesaw, Georgia, and at Educational Cultural Exchanges in London, England. Originally from Croydon, England, Richard also serves on the Boards of Civil Bikes and the Friends of Georgia Archives and History. Richard lives in East Atlanta Village with his son, Alfie.



## D L Henderson

Dr. D L Henderson is a historian, genealogist, preservationist, and author whose research interests and writing focus on the intersection of history, memory, and culture in Black cultural landscapes. She received a Doctor of Arts in Humanities degree from Clark Atlanta University and is a past president of the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. She currently serves on the advisory boards of the Historic Oakland Foundation, Historic Rural Churches of Georgia, Friends of the Georgia Archives, and the Cherokee Garden Library. D L is chair of the Cherokee Garden Library Acquisitions Committee, which she joined in 2020. She received the Atlanta Urban Design Commission's Jenny D. Thurston Memorial Award to an Outstanding Preservation Professional, and she has been recognized by the Atlanta City Council for her contributions to the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture. She is the author of *Perpetual Segregation: Chronicling the Black Side of Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery* (2025) and *South-View: An African American City of the Dead* (2018).



## Deborah Proctor

Deborah “Deb” Proctor brings a lifelong passion for gardens, a deep appreciation for horticultural history, and hands-on experience in landscape design. Raised in a Greensboro, North Carolina family with a lengthy gardening legacy, she was influenced by her great uncle, renowned horticulturist William Lanier Hunt. With his encouragement, she developed her own expertise, including personal study and professional practice, via her company, Specialty Garden Designs. As a long-time member and leader in the Club Estate Garden Club of Brookhaven, Deb brought home many ribbons from entries in the Atlanta Flower Shows. She led many significant garden projects, including the design and fundraising for the Meditation Chapel and Garden at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cancer Hospice. Her contributions were recognized at local, state, and national levels. She also encouraged the club to donate its trove of historical records to the Cherokee Garden Library, where she spent many hours researching and updating the club’s 85-year history. Beyond her garden-related endeavors, Deb’s career is in real estate finance, starting in New York City in 1982 after receiving a Master of Business Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This led to transfers to Chicago and, in 1986, to Atlanta (halleluia!), where she and her husband, Steve, have raised two daughters and are thrilled to be grandparents.



## Claire Reid

Claire Reid is an Atlanta native and graduate of The Westminster Schools. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Vanderbilt University, she was awarded a Wattles Fellowship at Lloyd’s of London. Following her return to Atlanta, she pursued a corporate career with AT&T and a “side business,” traveling to East Asia to select, import, and retail fine linens and porcelain. After marrying her husband George, she devoted her time to raising their two daughters. Countless hours were spent volunteering in their schools, and in the community through National Charity League. Claire’s passion for design and gardening remains constant. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Park Place Design Review Committee. She also devotes much thought and energy to creating and tending her garden in North Carolina. Claire and George adore their three grandchildren and eagerly await the arrival of the fourth in June. Claire looks forward to continuing to serve on the Cherokee Garden Library Advisory Board.



## Muriel Schelke

Muriel Foster Schelke was raised in Mobile, Alabama, and has always appreciated the lush, layered gardens, waterways, and quiet beauty of the South. She studied Journalism and Art History at Washington & Lee University and lived in New York and San Francisco before settling in Atlanta in 2006 with her husband, Steef, and their two daughters, Leyden and Anabel. Over a 25-year career, Muriel worked for magazines including *Wired*, *Dwell*, and *Garden & Gun*. In 2019, Muriel joined The Artist Collective. Her gallery, The Atlanta Artist Collective, has the mission to represent local artists while giving back to local non-profits with a percentage of sales.





## Chris Wakefield

Chris Wakefield, a native of Cumming, Georgia, is the President of The Outdoor Lights, a premier landscape lighting company based in his hometown. Under his leadership, the company was established in 1995 and has become a recognized leader in the U.S. lighting industry, known for transforming exclusive properties across Georgia, the nation, and internationally. The Outdoor Lights is proud to be comprised of over thirty dedicated team members, each bringing their unique expertise and passion to the company's success. As a licensed electrician and expert landscape lighting designer, Chris has spent the last three decades pushing the boundaries of creativity and innovation, revolutionizing how outdoor spaces are illuminated. Some of his favorite projects include lighting Relais & Châteaux hospitality resorts, where the company's designs enhance the atmosphere of some of the most reputable destinations in the world. Recently, The Outdoor Lights expanded its expertise to interior lighting, bringing the same sophistication indoors as they do outdoors. Chris, his wife, Tracy, and their golden doodle puppy, live on Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Georgia. He is a proud father to his son, Tanner, and daughter, Brelin, who play integral roles in the company. In addition to his work, Chris is a Sawnee Ridge Methodist Church member and serves as a mentor to young men at risk at the Bald Ridge Boys Lodge. He is also a National Champion barefoot water skier and has competed in the prestigious World Barefoot Competition. Chris enjoys many hobbies outside of work, including kiteboarding, mountain biking, aviation, CrossFit, hunting, gardening, snow skiing, and every outdoor activity imaginable.



## Melissa Wright

Melissa Wright grew up in Atlanta with an appreciation for beautiful and unique flowers as both of her parents are past judges for the American Orchid Society. She graduated from the University of Virginia, earning a Bachelor of Arts in English. Melissa worked in both advertising and interior design and now devotes her time to being a community volunteer. She and her husband, Bobby, have two adult children, Molly and Mason. Melissa was an active volunteer at both Morris Brandon Elementary School and The Westminster Schools, where their children attended, and served on the board of Theological Horizons at the University of Virginia. She is a member of the Cherokee Garden Club and The Cathedral of St. Philip and enjoys cooking and traveling with her family. Her mother-in-law, Edie Wright, was one of the founders and a lifelong supporter of the Cherokee Garden Library. Melissa returns to the Advisory Board in her new role as Cherokee Garden Club President.

**RIGHT** "Wild of Flowers" plate from Clarissa Munger Badger's *Flora belles from green-house and garden*. New York: C. Scribner & Company, 1867.









# TRILLIUMS: HARBINGERS OF SPRING

BY TRAVIS FISHER,  
Senior Horticulturist & Records Manager,  
Goizueta Gardens and Living Collections

Trilliums are woodland wildflowers grouped with a class of plants known collectively as spring ephemerals. Spring ephemerals usually grow in mature forests and emerge from the leaf litter early in spring. Ephemerals grow, flower, and produce seed primarily before the trees have fully opened their leaves, taking advantage of the sun that reaches the forest floor early in the year.

LEFT *Trillium grandiflorum*



*Trillium persistens*

Spring ephemerals produce swaths of flowers and fresh green foliage before most other plants have emerged from their winter slumber, creating beautiful displays of returning life in woodlands across eastern North America. Amongst the spring ephemerals, there are perhaps no showier, ecologically interesting, or beloved plants than the trilliums. Of all the regions of North America, the southeastern United States has the greatest diversity of trilliums and is one of the most biodiverse. It has some of the highest temperate biodiversity of any region in the world, with varied landscapes, geology, soil, and abundant rainfall all contributing to its species richness and the region's wealth of *Trillium* species.

Trilliums occur in only a few regions on Earth: eastern North America, western North America west of the Rocky Mountains, and east Asia, primarily Japan and southern China into the Himalayan foothills. East Asia contains five or six species, the western United States has around seven, and eastern North America has around thirty-six species. Thirty of those thirty-six eastern North American trillium species are found in the southeastern United States. The highest rates of trillium diversity within

*Trillium decipiens*

the Southeast occur in the southern Appalachian and Piedmont regions. Trilliums love the deep forest soils and consistent moisture of the Appalachian and Piedmont forests, and it is in these forests that trillium species can most readily be observed.

Like much of the plant biodiversity in the southeastern United States, the particular abundance of trilliums in this region can be explained by the most recent Ice Age. For many millions of years until about ten thousand years ago, the Earth was locked in a cycle of extremely cold periods in which vast sheets of glacial ice would expand down from the northern ice cap. In North America, these glaciers reached their furthest geographic extent at the current Ohio River Valley during the Wisconsin Glaciation, which lasted from seventy-five to eleven thousand years ago. Throughout this era of ice and cold, the southeastern United States remained unglaciated and relatively mild in climate. Many species of plants and animals could persist in this sheltered region, especially in the valleys and coves of the Appalachian Mountains. Trilliums were one of these lucky Ice Age holdouts, surviving the brutality of the long winters and desiccating glacial winds in the relative comfort of the Appalachian forests.

*Trillium maculatum*

The other regions where trilliums are found are also areas that spared the worst effects of the Ice Age glaciation. Like the southern Appalachians, these regions, especially southern China, acted as refuges for many species of plants and animals and consequently have incredibly high rates of biodiversity. Known as *refugia* by the natural history community, these regions of the world most likely reflect the remnants of a forest ecosystem that stretched across the Northern Hemisphere before the cooling that prompted the Ice Ages. Where physical features of the landscape and climatic mercies were able to hold back the boreal winds, organisms like trilliums waited out the eons until they could begin spreading out from their sheltered coves and valleys.

Trilliums have few living relatives amongst the extant plant families. When European botanists first catalogued them in the 18th century, they were classified as lilies, but they have since been removed from that family. They are now grouped with dissimilar plants in the family *Melanthiaceae*. Their closest relatives are plants in the genus *Paris*, a small family of forest denizens in Europe and Asia. The *Trillium* and *Paris* lineages diverged around fifteen million years ago and have been geographically separated since the



rising seas at the end of the last Ice Age submerged the land bridge between North America and Asia.

Trilliums' flower structures are divided into two broad categories. Pedicellate trilliums produce flowers on a stalk or pedicel that is either suspended above the leaves or hangs down below them. Sessile trilliums produce flowers directly from the juncture of the leaves and main stem of the plant and are only found in North America; all the Asian trillium species are pedicellate.

Trilliums produce large, showy flowers of an assortment of colors, from crimson, yellow, white, green, and pink. The leaves of trilliums are not in fact leaves but bracts, leaf-like structures that often surround the flowers of plants. The true leaves of trilliums are found on the underground root structure of the plant, and do not perform any of the functions usually associated with leaves. For all intents and purposes, the bracts of trilliums look like leaves and perform photosynthesis, so they are often simply referred to as leaves. Each of these parts of the trillium appears in three, hence the name trillium. There are almost always three leaves, three tepals (the outer covering of a flower), and three flower petals.

Like many spring ephemerals, trilliums have developed a symbiotic relationship with ants known as myrmecochory. Trilliums produce large seeds surrounded by a packet of sugars and fats called an elaiosome. The elaiosome is produced to entice ants to carry the seeds back to their colonies where they consume the fatty part of the seed but not the seed itself. The seeds then germinate out of the storage chambers of the ant colony. Trilliums are often found growing in clusters of individual plants that have germinated and grown up from a former ant hill. This seed dispersal pattern leads to large patches of trilliums often found in southeastern woodlands.

As winter recedes and early spring arrives, trilliums begin to send their stalks up through the leaf litter, becoming especially abundant from mid-April through mid-May. Older forests will contain more variety and numbers of trilliums, but even younger woods will

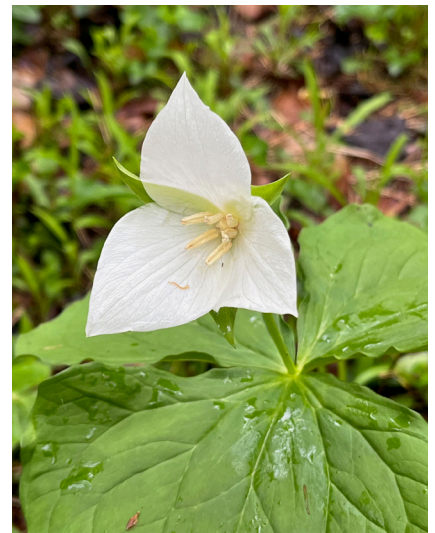
often have at least one species, especially in the Piedmont and Appalachian Mountains. They are easily identified by their unique three-part structure and the bright colors and striking forms of their flowers. Once the trees above them unfurl their leaves and block the sunlight and the drying heat of the summer begins to desiccate their foliage, trilliums no longer have an incentive to maintain their above ground structures. They have reproduced and replenished their stores and will wilt away to save their energy for next year's spring.

Trilliums have long endeared themselves to botanists, naturalists, and horticulturists. Their three-part structure produces plants with an elegant and striking form. They have beautiful flowers that shine in the bright sun of early spring, pinnacles of color against the decaying leaves of last year's summer, and lush foliage that presages the green world to come. Whether in the woods of Georgia or on the grounds of the Atlanta History Center, a pause to consider a trillium will be rewarded by its beauty and the knowledge that these plants are one of the myriad natural wonders that make the forests of the Southeast special on the face of the Earth.

*All photographs courtesy of the Goizueta Gardens professional team.*



*Trillium cuneatum*



*Trillium flexipes*



*Trillium luteum*



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The Cherokee Rose Society of the Franklin Miller Garrett Society celebrates those honored donors who have chosen to make a planned gift to the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center. Although charitable gifts may be made to the Library through a variety of means, significant support in future years will come from those who include the Library in their total estate plans. By creating a personal legacy, the Cherokee Rose Society will also create a lasting legacy for the Cherokee Garden Library. Please join us in this important endeavor. To join the Cherokee Rose Society or to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Staci Catron, at 404.814.4046 or [SCatron@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com](mailto:SCatron@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com).

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To make a gift to any of the funds, please make your check payable to "Atlanta History Center," and send it with a note indicating which fund you have selected (Anne Coppedge Carr Research and Director's Endowment Fund, Ashley Wright McIntyre Education and Programming Endowment Fund, Carter Heyward Morris Acquisitions Endowment Fund, or Louise Staton Gunn Conservation Endowment Fund). Please mail checks to Cherokee Garden Library, Atlanta History Center, PO Box 117478, Atlanta, GA 30368-7478. Every gift in any amount will make a tremendous difference in the future of the Cherokee Garden Library. Your gift may be in honor or memory of a beloved family member or friend. Acknowledgments will be sent promptly.



If you have any questions, please contact Staci Catron at 404.814.4046 or [SCatron@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com](mailto:SCatron@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com).

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# THANK YOU





The background of the page is a collage of various books related to gardening. Visible titles include 'THE AZALEA HANDBOOK' (1952), 'CLIMBING ROSES' by G. A. STEVENS, 'SOUTHERN CROPS', 'OLD GARDEN ROSES', 'Garden His of Georgia' (1733 - 1933), 'PLANT VIRUSES' by KENNETH M. SMITH, and 'A GARDEN BOOK FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER'. The books are arranged in a scattered, overlapping manner, creating a rich, textured backdrop for the central text.

## BOOK, MANUSCRIPT & VISUAL ARTS DONATIONS

In addition to purchases throughout the year, the Cherokee Garden Library relies on the kindness of book, periodical, manuscript, and visual arts donors to strengthen its collections. It is a generous deed for a donor, whether an individual or an organization, to part with beloved books and other records to enhance the quality of the Cherokee Garden Library's holdings. We extend our sincere appreciation to these donors.

For more information on donating materials, please contact the Director, Staci Catron, at [scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com](mailto:scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com) or 404.814.4046. *This list includes the donors who gave between September 16, 2024, and March 7, 2025, and signed a formal Deed of Gift.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*



- A. Donation from **Ingeborg Ahrens and William Douglas Tuttle**: one twelve-volume set.
- B. Donation from **The American Daffodil Society**: National Garden Clubs, Inc. Plant Society Standard Flower Show orange and white rosette ribbon, 2023, and five award certificates from National Garden Clubs, Inc. and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., 2024, to be added to the existing collection, *MSS 1029, American Daffodil Society records*.
- C. Donation from **The American Dahlia Society**: Forty-eight issues of *The Dahlia: Official Bulletin, Central States Dahlia Society, 1934 to 1969*, and five issues of *The Pacific Dahlia: Official Bulletin, Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference, 1960, 1966-1968*, to be added to the existing collection, *Eugene Boeke Dahlia Archives, American Dahlia Society periodical collection*.
- D. Donation from **Avondale Estates Garden Club**: four scrapbooks to be added to the existing collection, *MSS 1019, Avondale Estates Garden Club records*.
- E. Donation from **Greg Bachar**: one contemporary book signed by the author.
- F. Donation from **Edward L. Daugherty, FASLA**: thirty-eight boxes of business files to be added to the existing collection, *MSS 997, Edward L. Daugherty papers*.
- G. Donation from **Stephanie Ishii Davis**: three booklets to be added to the existing collection, *MSS 992, Hastings Seed Company records*.
- H. Donation from **The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**: six issues of *Garden Gateways: The Official Bulletin of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.*, to be added to the existing run of *Garden Gateways* in the periodical collection.
- I. Donation from **Dr. D L Henderson**: Two historic photographs to be added to the existing collection, *VIS 400, Gardens and Cultural Landscapes of Black America visual arts materials*.
- J. Donation from **Lewis Jacobs**: one historic volume.
- K. Donation from **Baxter P. Jones in memory of Margaret Davison Block**: thirty-three rare works, including several multi-volume sets, ranging from 1827 to 1994, one periodical, and two programs.
- L. Donation from **Andrew D. Kohr**: one box of research papers about Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Charleston, South Carolina.
- M. Donation from **Geraldine A. Laufer**: one box of publicity materials regarding Atlanta's Olmsted Plein Air Invitational, 2017–2019.
- N. Donation from **Julie McClelland in memory of Julia Orme Martin**: seven volumes to be added to the existing Julia O. Martin book collection.
- O. Donation from **Mt. Cuba Center**: one contemporary publication.
- P. Donation from **Park Pride**: conference program, landscape architectural drawings, periodicals, photo album, poster, publications, and vision plans, to be added to existing collections, *MSS 1158, Park Pride records, and VIS 348, Park Pride landscape architectural drawings*.
- Q. Donation from **Harry A. Risetto for The American Dahlia Society**: Chromolithograph of Cactus Dahlia (Crimson King) from *Supplement to Amateur Gardening*, January 1, 1898, to be added to the existing collection, *VIS 219, Eugene Boeke Dahlia Archive, American Dahlia Society print collection*.
- R. Donation from **Alana Shepherd**: three photos of Nellie Mae Rowe's garden, circa 1972.
- S. Donation from **Donna Smythe**: eight contemporary gardening books.



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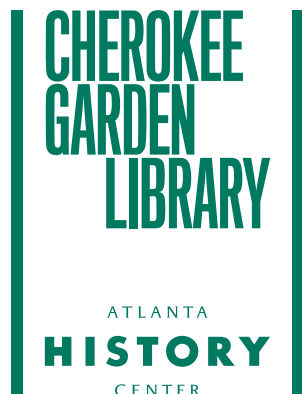
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