



Le Journal des Amis



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and welcome to your first edition of Friends of Magnolia Mound's newsletter: *Le Journal des Amis*. I say *your newsletter* because it truly is "the Newsletter of the Friends." I know that during these crazy times, Magnolia Mound might not be on top of your mind. But perhaps there are those who, in anticipation of re-opening, can't think about anything else. So, what better time than now to launch what we plan to be the first of many newsletters.

Your contribution helps maintain one of the finest collections of 18th-century furniture to be found. And throughout the year, your membership allows the Friends to give support to Magnolia Mound's educational programs promoting early life in Louisiana. We hope by highlighting this outstanding collection, these programs, and those individuals making a difference at Magnolia Mound, that *Le Journal des Amis* will provide you a way to stay connected, stay informed and enrich your passion for the place we all know and cherish.

So from the board, staff and volunteers, we say "Thank You" for your continued support and we hope to see you at the Mound soon, very soon.

Stay safe and happy reading.
Donna Mitchell

20th annual Petite Antiques Forum celebrated!



Left to right: Donna Mitchell, Claudia Kheel (guest speaker), Karen Zobrist (event chair), Sue Turner, Pat Bacot, and Winnie Byrd

The sun shone brightly on January 30th for the Friends of Magnolia Mound's 20th annual Petite Antique Forum.

Pat Bacot, who guided the restoration of Magnolia Mound and continued on as curator emeritus of the collection, was honored at the event. The Friends presented him with a monogrammed sterling silver mint julep cup with stirrer for his collection.

Refreshments were provided at the Louisiana State Archives by Susan Wilder and Jeanne Yerger.

Claudia Kheel lectured on the progression of Southern art from the 1700s to today.

After brunch at the Baton Rouge Rouge County Club, Dr. and Mrs. Chambliss Harrod graciously invited guests to tour their home. Tour guides were Chambliss Harrod, Wayne and Cheryl Stromeier, Pat Bacot, Babeth Schlegel, Ira Babin, Chet Coles, Mary Tharp, Margaret Lawhon Schott, Catherine White, and JoAnn Hymel. Magnolia Mound was also open for tours. The BREC staff assisted at the Forum and at Magnolia Mound.

The Friends of Magnolia Mound are indebted to Winnie Byrd for establishing and being the driving force for the Petite Antiques Forum. She is greatly missed by all.



Guests toured Magnolia Mound and the A. Hays Town-designed home (above) of Dr. and Mrs. Chambliss Harrod.



Curator Emeritus

H. Parrott Bacot, Jr. honored at Forum

In the 1960s, the Friends asked H. Parrott Bacot, Jr., then director of LSU's Anglo-American Art Museum, to guide them in the accurate late 1820s recreation of the interiors of Magnolia Mound, a French Creole plantation house. As a volunteer advisor and curator, Bacot led the restoration work with exacting standards of accuracy. His tireless devotion and expertise through the years has made Magnolia Mound one of the finest house museums in our area.

After many decades Pat is stepping down as Magnolia Mound's curator emeritus. We will miss his invaluable assistance and cannot thank him enough.



Karen Zobrist and Donna Mitchell presented Pat Bacot with a silver mint julep cup.

A TRIBUTE TO WINNIE BYRD



The Friends lost a devoted champion and loyal supporter, Winifred "Winnie" Evans Byrd, on February 14, 2020.

Winnie partnered with her dear friend Sue Turner in the preservation and restoration of Magnolia Mound. Her love of history and people served her well and inspired so many others to join them. Winnie succeeded Sue as chair of the Friends Board and organized the first docent training for the Mound. Though her beloved "Mag Mound," was just one of her many community projects, Winnie said in a May 1992 interview in *League Lites* that the Mound was her favorite.



Winnie Byrd and Sue Turner at Magnolia Mound, May 1977.

Winnie most recently served as chair of the Site Development Committee focusing her attention on landscape improvements first suggested in the 1982 Site Master Plan. We will miss her enthusiasm, energy, and boundless love she gave to Magnolia Mound and all the Friends. She leaves us an inspiring legacy.

A memorial fund has been created in Winnie's honor to support her favorite projects at Magnolia Mound.

Contributions to this fund can be made to the Friends, P.O. Box 45848, Baton Rouge, LA 70895 or by contacting Babeth Schlegel at 225-421-3162.

Le Salon Duplantier



L to R: Susan Wilder, Winnie Byrd, Donna Mitchell, Pat Comeaux, and host Cary Saurage

On November 10, 2019, Friends of Magnolia Mound gathered at the home of Cary Saurage to honor the following 2018-2019 donors at the 10th annual Le Salon Duplantier:

Armand Allard Duplantier Circle: John Turner and Jerry Fischer, Turner Industries, Inc., The Family and Friends of Anne Gueymard Shirley Memorial Donations

Constance Joyce Duplantier Circle: The Alma, Lee, Norman and Cary Saurage Fund, The McMains Foundation, T. Semmes Favrot Charitable Trust

Duplantier Society: Mr. and Mrs. H. Parrott Bacot, Jr., Mary Kay and Terrell Brown, Winnie Byrd, Marilyn and Wayne Davis, William A. Hart, Mary Lynn and Chuck McMains, Josephine Nixon, Virginia and John Noland, Dr. Wayne Stromeier and Mrs. Cheryl Stromeier, Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, LLC, Wampold Companies - Mike Wampold, The Milton J. Womack Foundation, Jeanne Yerger, Karen and Mike Zobrist, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Young

At the event guests enjoyed the inviting Saurage home and delightful outdoor gardens. Assisting Cary with hosting the gathering was his sister-in-law, Donna Saurage.

Friends of Magnolia Mound are indebted to Cary Saurage for sponsoring the Le Salon Duplantier and for offering to help underwrite the event in 2020!

THE FRIENDS HONOR RETIRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PATRICIA WEAVER COMEAUX



A reception was held February 3rd for Pat at the Friends board meeting where she was given a handmade wooden bowl in thanks.

For over 31 years, Pat devoted her time and attention to supporting Magnolia Mound. Pat first fell in love with Magnolia Mound when she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new kitchen. She became a kitchen docent and later joined the board where she served as president and later became executive director. Pat was involved with the complete restoration of the

historic house and with the furnishing of the Manager's House and the Hart House.

Pat was instrumental in coordinating The Friends' annual activities and fundraisers, such as Petite Antique Forum, Black History Month, Jazz Brunch, Le Salon Duplantier and Creole Christmas. She and Jane Thomas redesigned and edited the reprint of the *Year in the Garden* book. Pat was also involved with our newest publication, *Inside Magnolia Mound*. Additionally she managed the financial business of the Friends and the quarterly board meetings and served on numerous committees.

"Pat helped create a professional Friends' organization for Magnolia Mound," said John Sykes, Magnolia Mound's museum director. He added, "Pat's dedication, and friendship have meant so much to the success of Magnolia Mound."

Thank you, Pat, for all the work you have done so well, the enthusiasm you have shown, and the love you have for the Friends of Magnolia Mound. We will miss you.

Inside Magnolia Mound Arrives

At long last, *Inside Magnolia Mound*, a handsome 28-page color publication, has arrived.

Available for sale at the Turner Family Visitor Center Gift Shop, the new booklet features glorious photographs of the historic house and the collection. Designed for visitors, it contains a floor plan, and a brief essay and overview of each room's significant items in the Friends of Magnolia Mound decorative arts collection.

The publication celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the saving of the Mound and was entirely underwritten by George and Ruth Rosenthal Bilbe in memory of Elise Cohn and Robert M. Rosenthal. Photography by Jim Zeitz was underwritten by the descendants of James Hillen, the first owner of Magnolia Mound. The publication also honors the many donors of items to the Friends' Collection.

A collaborative project, the publication committee included H. Parrott Bacot, Jr., Pat Comeaux, Babeth Schlegel, John Sykes, and Jane Siddall Thomas.

Come See Leon and Caroline Back Home at Magnolia Mound!



The portraits of Leon and Caroline Bonnacaze on display in the Salon.

The Salon once again features the fine portraits of Leon Bonnacaze (1797-1872) and his wife, Caroline Mahier (1803-1888). These pendants (created as a pair to face each other) were painted by Louis-Antoine Collas in 1824. Leon was a native of France and was the French Consul in Baton Rouge. He helped welcome the Marquis de Lafayette to Baton Rouge in 1825. The Hilton Hotel now sits on the site where their home stood on Lafayette Street. Leon and Caroline were friends of the Duplantiers, and later, the George Hall family who lived at Magnolia Mound. The portraits descended to Miss Blanche Duncan, a Bonnacaze descendant, who owned Magnolia Mound from 1929-1958.

The portraits were given to the Friends by Mrs. Shirley Jarreau Dunbar, in memory of her husband, Winder Hart Dunbar. The Dunbar Family were honored for their generous gift at the Hart House Dedication on October 28, 2019.



A WORD FROM BABETH SCHLEGEL

Bonjour! I can still remember the first day I came to Magnolia Mound. Dottie Lyon, a house docent, gave the tour of the historic house. I was impressed with the quality and importance of this museum. My journey at Magnolia Mound started soon after, first with BREC and then working for the Friends. 19 years later, I am thrilled and thankful to add a new role. On top of the collections manager position, I was given the role of the administrative assistant. I have been working closely with Pat Comeaux now that she has retired and I have assumed many of her duties. Like many of you, I am now working from home due to Covid-19. Be safe!

– Babeth Schlegel, *Administrative Assistant/Collections Manager, Friends of Magnolia Mound*



Registering guests at the 2020 Petite Antiques Forum

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

The Covid-19 crisis required that Magnolia Mound close to all visitors on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Full-time staff continued to work each day, on site and remotely from home. Staff is taking this time to catch up on delayed maintenance and accomplish several important “rainy day items.” Tour guides have been using “on-line” training resources to complete important training programs. Education staff has been expanding our on-line resources for students and teachers.



Christopher Triche, exhibit coordinator and archivist, has been called to serve with the Louisiana National Guard. A reservist, Triche is a medic, and is helping to administer Covid-19 tests in New Orleans. Magnolia Mound and BREC are very proud of Christopher.

This summer would have been our 40th year of Summer History Camp. We had planned to celebrate this historic date with special events and promotions. (Winnie Byrd started that first camp, and our new board member, Susan Eaton was the first counselor.) Our education staff is exploring several options to have a safe version of our summer camp. Those alternative plans are still evolving.

Magnolia Mound staff, working with BREC's Communications Department, has produced several short video segments for social media about the site's history. Magnolia Mound's website and our Facebook page have shown increased traffic to view our updated information, and visitors wanting a special “virtual” experience.

Magnolia Mound plans to re-open to the public for grounds tours on Friday, May 15, 2020, and will phase in small tours of the historic house beginning in June.

– John Sykes, *Museum Director*

FRIENDS OF MAGNOLIA MOUND UNDERWRITERS, MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Current Memberships and Donations as of this printing

MAJOR UNDERWRITERS

Franklin Press – Printing
Thomasgraphics – Graphic Design

ARMAND ALLARD DUPLANTIER CIRCLE

\$5,000 - \$9,999

John Turner and Jerry Fischer

CONSTANCE JOYCE DUPLANTIER CIRCLE

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Josephine Nixon

DUPLANTIER SOCIETY

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Barbara and H. Parrott Bacot, Jr.*
Winnie Byrd
Marilyn and Wayne Davis
Mary Lynn and Chuck McMains
Dr. Wayne Stromeyer
and Mrs. Cheryl Stromeyer
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Sally T. Duplantier
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Mr. and Mrs. Sulzer
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\$100 - \$249

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IN HONOR & MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Torie Preis in memory of
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Winnie Byrd and Sue Turner

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF WINNIE BYRD

Barbara and H. Parrott Bacot, Jr.
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**If you wish to make a
donation in Winnie Byrd's
memory please use the form
or call Babeth Schlegel at
(225) 421-3162.**

**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.*



Become a member, renew or donate today!

Memberships and donations help maintain and grow the Friends' exquisite collection of 18th-century furniture and decorative arts. These funds also allow the Friends to help support quality educational programs promoting early life in Louisiana.

MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE CIRCLE \$10,000

- Honored at Le Salon Duplantier
- Name on Friends stationery and web donor page
- Receive six tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

ARMAND ALLARD DUPLANTIER CIRCLE \$5,000

- Honored at Le Salon Duplantier
- Name on Friends stationery and web donor page
- Receive four tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

CONSTANCE JOYCE DUPLANTIER CIRCLE \$2,500

- Honored at Le Salon Duplantier
- Name on Friends stationery and web donor page
- Receive three tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

DUPLANTIER SOCIETY \$1,000

- Honored at Le Salon Duplantier
- Name on Friends stationery and web donor page
- Receive two tickets to the Petite Antiques Forum
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

PLANTER: \$500

- Name on the web donor page
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

SETTLER: \$250

- Name on the web donor page
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

MANAGER: \$100

- Name on the web donor page
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

FRIEND: \$35

- Name on the web donor page
- Receive free admission and tours
- Receive a 20% discount in the Magnolia Mound gift shop
- Invited to the Salon Duplantier

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

Coordinates and oversees the purchasing, maintenance, repairs, appraisals and insurance of the Collection which is owned by the Friends.

Works in concert with the Museum Director and staff in the implementation of the Master Plan concerning the structures and landscaping on the plantation.

Coordinates and oversees the plantings and maintenance of the Kitchen Garden.

Friends of Magnolia Mound

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Magnolia Mound

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Sue Turner

Babeth Schlegel, *Administrative*
Assistant/Collections Manager,
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Questions? Please send an email to friendsofmagnoliamount@gmail.com or call Babeth Schlegel at (225) 421-3162

Date of joining: ____ / ____ / ____

One-Year Membership to the Friends of Magnolia Mound

Name(s) _____ (As you would like to appear in acknowledgments)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Check desired Level of Membership. ☐ Marquis de Lafayette Circle \$10,000 ☐ Armand Allard Duplantier Circle \$5,000

☐ Constance Joyce Duplantier Circle \$2,500 ☐ Duplantier Society \$1,000 ☐ Planter \$500 ☐ Settler \$250 ☐ Manager \$100 ☐ Friend \$35

Donations: I wish to make a donation \$ _____ to the Friends of Magnolia Mound

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____ In Honor of / In Memory of _____
(Please circle your choice)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

You can also charge your membership online at www.friendsofmagnoliamount.org

Make check payable to: Friends of Magnolia Mound Plantation
Mail to: Friends of Magnolia Mound Plantation, Inc.
P.O. Box 45848, Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Friends of Magnolia Mound Plantation, Inc.
is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

