



GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Summer has arrived at Magnolia Mound. Our summer camps are in full swing and our kitchen garden is producing a bountiful harvest. Our Master Gardner volunteers have been braving the heat to tend to all the vegetables and herbs. Our garden wouldn't be possible without our wonderful volunteers. We are so thankful to have them. All the children in the camps are enjoying seeing, first hand, how vegetables actually grow.

Thank you to all our volunteers and to all of you who have renewed your membership to the Friends of Magnolia Mound. Your ongoing support is what allows us to exist and thrive. We rely heavily on your memberships and donations to continue the care of our beautiful collection and gardens, as well as being able to help provide education, and for us to take on special projects.

Free First Sunday at Magnolia Mound in June offered an exciting genealogy workshop. Dr. Antoinette Harrell gave a program on the basics of genealogy, specifically focusing on the African American experience in Louisiana. Dr. Harrell is an African-American historian, genealogist, and civil rights activist who is dedicated to genealogy research. We hope you will be able to attend an upcoming Free First Sunday Program.

Again, thank you for your support and please encourage your friends to become members. We look forward to seeing you this summer.

Susan Eaton
President

Home again



David Broussard and Floyd De Mers dismantled the armoire at the James home and (shown above) reassembled it in the Florida room in the Hart house.

In June this handsome armoire came home after being away for over 45 years.

Trent and Kay James generously donated the armoire to the Friends of Magnolia Mound. It is thought that this armoire furnished the Hart House at the time the house was built in 1904. It dates from circa 1840-1860 and is possibly Louisiana-made.

The Hart House was sold to BREC in 1979. The heir, Annabelle Hart Anderson, was moving to North Boulevard and needed to part with some beloved family furniture, including the armoire.

In 1977, Trent and Kay James moved his ancestral plantation house, Bagatelle, circa 1840, and several dependencies, upriver from St. James parish to a magnificent site on the river in Iberville parish,

Having successfully accomplished that, the next task was to acquire appropriate mid-19th century furnishings for the house.

With the valuable help of Pat Bacot, they found many wonderful pieces, including this armoire and several other pieces of furniture from the Hart House.

By Chet Coles

Research Library Receives Incredible Gift

In May 2024, the Friends of Magnolia Mound received an incredible donation for the research library and archives located in the Hart House at Magnolia Mound. A Baton Rouge native, Karen Cangelosi, of New York, NY, donated her reference library, assembled over years, during her career as generalist appraiser in St. Louis, Mo., and New York. In her work with Selkirk's Auction House and the English auction house Phillips, Cangelosi assembled an impressive collection of scholarly reference books encompassing everything from furniture, paintings, ceramics, glass, clocks, etc.

Cangelosi grew up on Nicholson Drive, not far from Magnolia Mound. She attended St. Agnes and graduated from Baton Rouge High. In Fall 1974, while a student at LSU, she participated in an archaeological field school at Magnolia Mound. Cangelosi graduated from LSU with a bachelor's degree in French Literature. Family trips to New Orleans always included visits to antique shops. Cangelosi works now exclusively as a gemologist and silver appraiser. An avid genealogist, Cangelosi has donated her reference library in memory of her ancestor, Jacques Cantrelle III (1779-1831), a resident of St. James Parish, who served during the War of 1812. (Coincidentally, Cantrelle served in the same 6th Infantry LA Militia as Armand Duplantier of Magnolia Mound.)

The research library at Magnolia Mound dates from the 1980s with books donated and acquired by the Friends, donations from the volunteer group "Mound Builders" and regular purchases from BREC. During the renovations of the Hart House in 2019, the library square footage was doubled in size with the addition of the renovated sleeping porch space. The library is open by appointment to staff, members of the Friends, and interested scholars. Christopher Triche, our archivist and manager of the library's book collection, is currently inventorying Karen Cangelosi's Cantrelle donation which will be added to our catalog.

Magnolia Mound is always looking to improve its research materials so we can present the most accurate and inclusive story of Louisiana. These materials help our staff and volunteers excel and present the best possible visitor experiences. We are so grateful to Karen Cangelosi and her generous gift to the Friends of Magnolia Mound.

If you have items, books or would like to make a monetary donation to support the research library and archives, please contact Babeth Schlegel, Executive Director of the Friends, at bschlegel@brec.org or 225-421-3162.



Members of the LSU Archaeological Field school under the direction of Dr. William "Bill" G. Haag at Magnolia Mound, Fall 1974. (Photo from Haag Collection, LSU Museum of Natural Science)



During Cangelosi's appraisal career, she appeared on PBS Antiques Roadshow. She has worked with Leigh Keno, who filmed a segment for the Roadshow at Magnolia Mound in 2013. Left to Right: Louise Miller, Charlie Collias, Leigh Keno, Pat Bacot, Sarah Elliott, Mark L. Wahlberg, Bob Birkett, and John Sykes. (Photo by Adam Monahan)



In 2019, the Hart House renovations included the expansion of the research library into a former sleeping porch. The English library table was donated by John and Virginia Noland. (Photo by John Sykes)



Karen Cangelosi's impressive collection of specialized decorative arts reference books being inventoried and catalogued for the Magnolia Mound reference library. (Photo by John Sykes)



Jacques Cantrelle III, a native of St. James Parish and War of 1812 veteran is buried at the National Cemetery at the Chalmette Battlefield. (Photo from Find-a-Grave.)



Remembering Randy

Longtime friend of Magnolia Mound, Jack Randolph "Randy" Harelson died on March 5, 2024, after a short illness. A Baton Rouge native, Randy's life was filled with his devotion to history, preservation, horticulture, and scholarship. After living in New England and Florida, Randy returned to Louisiana in 2006 with his

husband, Richard Gibbs, to restore the historic Lejeune House in New Roads. Together they created a phenomenal garden and helped lead a local renaissance of preservation efforts. A 2012 book, *New Roads and Old Rivers*, which Randy co-authored celebrated his love of Point Coupee Parish and its history.

Randy loved to tell the story of how he helped save Magnolia Mound. As a teenager he encouraged the other members of the Baton Rouge Junior Archaeological Society to help save the historic property. In July 1965, the *State-Times* reported that Randy and his group had gathered 322 signatures on a petition to save Magnolia Mound from being demolished. His love of Magnolia Mound led to his interest in historic preservation, saving houses and historic landscapes for the future.

Randy (and Richard) continued to support the preservation of Magnolia Mound, as a member of the Friends, and being generous



Randy Harelson welcomes visitors from the Petite Antiques Forum 2023 to his home, the Lejeune House, in New Roads, La. (Photo by John Sykes)

hosts at their New Roads home. In 2023, participants of the Petite Antiques Forum had the opportunity to tour the Lejeune House and Garden. Through his generous spirit and unwavering support of preservation, the Friends of Magnolia Mound were fortunate to have such a lifelong friend in Randy Harelson. We will miss him.

STATE-TIMES, Baton Rouge, La., Tues., July 27, 1965 9-A

Group Seeks Denial Of Murat Rezoning

A 322-signature petition to the City-Parish Council for presentation tomorrow night to protest re-zoning of the historic Prince Murat House was prepared yesterday by the Baton Rouge Junior Archeological Society.

Tomorrow's council hearing will involve a request to rezone the Nicholson Drive land on which the 1780 house stands in order to build a multi-story apartment building.

The teenage group two weeks ago passed a resolution condemning the re-zoning proposal. The resolution was submitted by Joe Holmes, and Randy Harelson assisted Holmes in securing signatures from both teenagers and adults.

The petition says, in part, the group opposes the re-zoning because, "The Prince Murat House is one of the few houses of its type still in existence and one of the few places of cul-

mean \$1,280,000 added to the Baton Rouge economy.

The pamphlet says Interstate 10 will be used by 49,000 vehicles per day by 1975. If one per cent of the 1975 travelers stop at the Murat House, the pamphlet says, this will bring 490 visitors per day. This would mean 178,850 visitors to the house yearly from Interstate 10 alone.

In other developments today, Harnett Kane, president of the Louisiana Landmarks Society, said the society "favors the preservation of the Murat House in its present location, with out removal to another site. It is a cardinal principle of historic preservation that a landmark should remain where it is."

In addition to about 150 Nicholson Drive area residents who plan to oppose the re-zoning at tomorrow's council hearing, a large delegation of Landmark Society members are expected.

State-Times article mentioning the work of Randy and other members of the Baton Rouge Junior Archaeological Society to preserve Magnolia Mound. (Magnolia Mound Research Library and Archives)

2025 Magnolia Mound Petite Antiques Forum – Colonial Williamsburg Folk Art



Watermelon Trade Sign, Miles Burkholder Carpenter, Waverly, Virginia, 1960, oil paint and elm wood, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Museum Purchase

You will want to mark your calendars now for an event to cure next winter's doldrums. On January 30, 2025, the twenty-fifth Friends of Magnolia Mound Petite Antiques Forum will feature a lecture by Laura Pass Barry. The Juli Grainger Curator of Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture at Colonial Williamsburg will speak about "American Folk Art in Colonial Williamsburg."

In July 2025, Colonial Williamsburg will celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of its superb folk art collection, which bears the name of its founder, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. began acquiring folk art in the late 1920s. at a time when few people acknowledged that the portraits, weathervanes, theorem

paintings, and figural trade signs created by nonacademic or folk artists were anything more than quaint or curious objects, with perhaps some historical interest. Mrs. Barry will share with the audience the extraordinary collection of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, the country's first folk art museum, as well as pieces from the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.

Following the lecture, participants will lunch at the Baton Rouge Country Club, and tour a private home not often open to the public.

More information will be forthcoming. Please plan to attend the twenty fifth Petite Antiques Forum.

2024 Summer History Camp Begins!

For the 44th summer in a row, Magnolia Mound's Summer History Camp opened on June 3rd. Summer History Camp is an immersive, all-day camp which seeks to inspire ages 8-12 with a love of history and Louisiana Culture. Magnolia Mound's Education Program Specialist, Monique Mulder, designs the curriculum and activities for the eight, one-week sessions of Summer History Camp.

This year's theme, "Rollin' on the River" uses the Mighty Mississippi to explore Louisiana's unique history and diverse cultures through traditional crafts and activities. All the campers' favorite activities return, including open hearth cooking and making ice cream.

Mykayla Jackson, our volunteer coordinator, is returning as camp director, joined by last summer's counselor, Kahlila Bandele. Joining our team this year is counselor Danielle Airhart.

There are only a few limited spaces available for some sessions. If you have a camper that may be interested, call or email **Craig.rowley@brec.org** or **225-421-3168** for more information and session availability.



Camp Director Mykayla Jackson, Education Manager Monique Mulder, Kahlila Bandele and Danielle Airhart, counselors at the Camp Luncheon at MJ's Cafe. (Photo by Craig Rowley)



2024 Summer Campers enjoy their activities in the Education Center at Magnolia Mound. (Photo by Monique Mulder.)



Black History Month

During Black History Month, visitors followed a memorial trail of important figures from East Baton Rouge's history all over the grounds. At the cabin from Cherie Quarters, we remembered the life and work of author Ernest Gaines.

(Photo by Craig Rowley)



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Mark your calendar for these upcoming events

PUMPKIN PATCH: October 6, 2024

CREOLE CHRISTMAS: December 8, 2024

Handleless teacups!

By Babeth Schlegel

In the seventeenth-century tea from China was introduced to England and soon the importation of Chinese porcelain teacups and teapots followed. English potters began making tea chinaware, copying the Chinese vessel forms. One of the results of this was that the handleless Chinese cup shape became the most common one, especially in creamware, China glaze and early pearlware. “Common shape” is the name that the potters gave these teacups. These vessels were referred to as tea bowls or sipper cups.

The English began drinking tea like the Chinese, but desired their tea served very hot. As a result these handleless cups were too hot to hold. The English cooled down their tea before drinking it by pouring the tea into the saucers. It eventually became considered vulgar to use saucers to cool down one’s tea, and handles were introduced.



A Family of Three at Tea, Oil painting, ca. 1727 by Richard Collins, Victoria and Albert Museum. Photo credit: <https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O56103/a-family-of-three-at-oil-painting-richard-collins/>

Sources:

Common Staffordshire cup and bowl shapes by George L. Miller <https://apps.jefpat.maryland.gov/diagnostic/Post-Colonial%20Ceramics/Cup%20Shapes/Essay%20on%20Cup%20&%20Bowl%20Shapes.pdf>
<https://fineart-restoration.co.uk/news/bountiful-brew-analysing-the-age-and-value-of-teacups-and-teapots/>

On the table of the historic house parlor is an English Staffordshire pink lustre porcelain tea service, circa 1825. Each piece is in the “London” style with an oblong bulging shape, decorated with green and copper floral motifs. The tea service includes a teapot, lidded sugar bowl, cream pitcher, waste bowl, handleless cups, saucers, and dessert plates.

The proper way to hold a sipper teacup was to place the first two fingers on the bottom of the cup and one’s thumb on the rim.



Friends of Magnolia Mound collection. Donor: American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

Some of the teacups and saucers are displayed on the mantel in the master bedroom. Mme. Duplantier could have had morning visitations from friends and would have offered coffee or tea in her bed chamber. The late curator emeritus for the Mound, Pat Bacot, found several pieces of evidence in Diderot’s *Encyclopédie* and a documented letter referring to that old French custom of displaying tea china in this manner.



Beloved Magnolia Mound Caretaker Dies

Lamar R. Wilson, a staff member since December 2012, died suddenly on June 8, 2024. Lamar was well-known and beloved by staff, volunteers, and visitors. A kind, soft-spoken man, Lamar had a wonderful sense of humor. “Mr. Lamar” was a great favorite of our summer history campers and the many school children who visited the Mound.

A 1984 graduate of Istrouma High, Lamar is survived by his wife, Attorney Chanda E. Reams, and their daughter, Cierra Wilson, a student at the University of Southern California.

The family has requested that memorials in Lamar’s name may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, New York 10016-5337 or on-line through: www.kidney.org

Friends of Magnolia Mound Underwriters, Membership and Donations as of Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024

Thanks to the following donors for joining the Mound or renewing their membership.

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

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

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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.



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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.

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Questions? Please send an email to friendsofmagnoliamount@gmail.com or call Babeth Schlegel at (225) 421-3162

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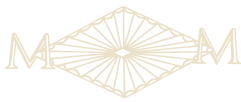
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News from the Kitchen Garden & Grounds

By Liz Treppendahl

The grounds and vegetable garden at Magnolia Mound are a source of great pride. Volunteers arrive every Thursday morning and spend several hours in the garden tilling the soil, planting, and weeding. The vegetables planted are those that would have been grown at the Mound more than 200 years ago. For each season, old plants are taken out and new ones put in. This summer, tomatoes, squash, corn, green beans, onions, and more were planted and harvested. Herbs are grown around the edges of the garden. There is tarragon, parsley, basil, dill, rosemary, sage, just to name a few. Many school groups come and tour the garden. You would be surprised how many children think everything they eat comes from a can. They "ooh and aah" as they learn about the plants.

- Volunteers Camm Morton and Gee Gee Hargon have worked tirelessly to add rows of sugar cane, a pumpkin patch, a section of mustard greens, some watermelons, and several bee hives. Profits from last year's "Pick Your Own Pumpkin Day" and honey that was gathered, bottled and sold, provided a source of extra income for the garden.
- Helping Camm and Gee Gee are the other faithful volunteers: Liz Treppendahl, Judy Boyce, Fran Martin, Jerri Becnel, and Mazie Doomas.
- Liz Treppendahl, Master Gardener as well as Site Committee Chairman, recently spent many hours clearing brambles and briars from the fence of the Overseer's house. She says this was a Herculean task but well worth the effort as now the picket fence can be mended.



Camm Morton and Gee Gee Hargon recently installed an automatic watering system for the newly planted vegetable garden on the Magnolia Mound grounds. It was no easy feat! (Photo by Camm Morton)

- Bollinger tree service trimmed oak limbs at the main house. Some limbs were touching the roof and others were across sidewalks blocking visitors entry to the home.
- There are several projects the volunteers want to tackle in the future, the most important is to make the entrance area to the Hart House look better. The porch and steps need repair and the poison ivy and poison oak need to be eradicated before landscaping can be done. This would greatly improve the entry to the Hart House and make visitors feel more welcome.

Check out Camm's article about Magnolia Mound in the Master Gardener Newsletter: <https://drive.google.com/file/u/1/d/1qs-tqjoetP1dUmklKKmQBk745nvbp2Rd/view?usp=sharing>