

2022 Deep South Garden Clubs Convention

"Explore the Beauty of Natchez"

Hosted by The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

March 6-8, 2022

Speaker, Workshop, and Tour Information

Please Refer to the Registration Form for Prices of Meals, Tours and Workshops

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WALKING TOUR OF NATCHEZ - 3:00 P.M.

Beginning at The House on Ellicott Hill, one of the properties owned by The Natchez Garden Club, A Walking Tour of Historic Natchez will commence. Tour The House on Ellicott Hill, one of Natchez's oldest homes and where Major Andrew Ellicott raised the first American Flag in the Mississippi Territory. Continuing on from the House on Ellicott Hill learn the history of the James Andrews House, the William Johnson House, and Texada, all with significant history with The Natchez Garden Club.



The tour ends at Magnolia Hall, also owned by The Natchez Garden Club and recently restored with the aid of The Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Magnolia Hall is also known as the Henderson-Britton House and was built in 1858. As a Greek Revival mansion it is on the National Register of Historic Places. Refreshments and a delicious evening meal will be served at this beautiful mansion.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

LUNCHEON 12:00 – 1:30 P.M.

Kathleen Jenkins Bond, Superintendent of the National Park Service in Natchez, will be our Featured Speaker. The National Park Service in Natchez controls the Natchez Visitors Center, Melrose, the William Johnson House, and the Forks of the Road. Kathleen is a history buff who is sure to entertain you with her knowledge of Natchez.



TOUR A – 2:00

TOUR OF FROGMORE PLANTATION, FROGMORE, LOUISIANA

Historical cotton & plantation culture is the story told at Frogmore Plantation, and there is cotton in the fields to pick from mid-July through April; then planting begins anew. An 1800-acre working cotton plantation, Frogmore has 19 restored antebellum structures that date from the early 1800's. Along with the history of the early Natchez planters and their slaves, the tour includes a rare Smithsonian quality steam cotton gin and then contrasts the historical methods with modern day planting, harvesting, and computerized ginning of cotton.



The tour begins upon arrival and is fully guided through eight historical buildings. Complimentary golf carts are provided for those with special needs. The guides tell of the evolution of change beginning in the 1790's through the war that created the lifestyle called sharecropping.

TOUR B – 3:00 PM

TOUR OF MONMOUTH GARDENS

Monmouth's Gardens were first in the planning stages early in the 1980's and the designs were created by Bill Garbo, noted Mississippi horticulturist, who specializes in the design of gardens in the antebellum period. Harvey Cotton, an early General Manager at Monmouth, was instrumental in the planting and maintenance of the young gardens. Master Gardener, Larry Stewart, was at Monmouth for many years, and was also instrumental in keeping the gardens beautifully well maintained. A complete tour of these beautiful gardens is sure to delight even the most ardent gardeners!



TUESDAY, MARCH 8

WORKSHOP C – 2:00 P.M.

TOUR OF CHOCTAW GARDENS

Owned by Natchez Garden Club Members, David Garner and Lee Glover, Choctaw has been lovingly restored. The Gardens were designed by David and Lee's Good Friend, the renowned P. Allen Smith. Experience the beauty of these gardens with a walking tour of the grounds.



WORKSHOP D – 2:00

TOUR OF NATCHEZ CITY CEMETERY (LIMIT 30)



A visit to Natchez is not complete without a tour of the Natchez City Cemetery. Established in 1822 on the bluffs high above the Mississippi River, its occupants' stories reveal the history, grandeur, mystery, and tragedy that tell the story of Natchez. The beautiful grounds provide breath-taking views of the Mississippi River – never more beautiful than at sunset. Majestic live oaks shadow the drive into the cemetery leading to the Shelter House, which serves as the main office.

In addition to the wonderful stories associated with the people buried at the Natchez City Cemetery, a tour provides an amazing view of iron fences, benches, tombstones, monuments, and other works of art and master craftsmanship. Talented marble workers such as Edwin Lyon and Robert Rawes are credited with many of the lovely sculpted monuments erected in the antebellum era. Inscriptions on the monuments are often moving, thought-provoking, and insightful. The iron work seen at the Natchez City Cemetery creates a remarkably representative display of 19th and early 20th century ironwork.

WORKSHOP E – 2:00

JOHN GRADY BURNS

THE NATCHEZ GRAND HOTEL

A Native of Natchez, John Grady attributes his level of taste to the "Garden Club Ladies" of Natchez. "Not only do they appreciate and preserve beauty, but they promote it." A graduate of Mississippi State University with a BS in Retail Floral Management, he had the pleasure of studying under Professor Emeritus Ralph Null.

Upon graduating he was invited to Washington, DC to help create floral designs for the White House, Blair House, and numerous ambassadors and foreign and domestic dignitaries.

John Grady continues to lecture and lead demonstrations and floral design programs across the country. He has been an ardent supporter of the Southeastern Flower Show volunteering his time and artistry. His work with cutting edge designers, nationally and internationally, has given him a place of prominence as one of the South's leading talents.



TUESDAY, MARCH 8
DESIGN BANQUET - 7:00 P.M.
DAVID ROBSON, DESIGNER



David Robson, from Springfield, Illinois, will be the guest Designer for the Convention. Many of you know David as an NGC Accredited Horticulture Instructor and an NGC Accredited Flower Show Procedure Instructor but David is quite an accomplished floral designer. He has had numerous designs featured in the NGC Vision of Beauty Calendars and was a guest Speaker at the Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas Convention in 2020. David has entered 25 plus designs in the Illinois State Fair each year since 2007. What a treat this design program will be – creative, innovative, with imaginative components, and beautiful flowers!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
TOUR AND BRUNCH - 8:45 AM
THE TOWERS MANSION

Nestled on almost five lush acres, "The Towers" is today considered the grandest and most elegant antebellum home in Mississippi. Surrounded by huge oak trees that were planted before the Civil War, this wonderful Italianate Mansion accommodates exceptional antique furniture, superb draperies and fabric wall coverings, beautiful antique laces on every window and extraordinary collections rarely seen anywhere.

