The Morgan County Landmarks Society
Presents

The Landmarks
Garden Tour

Garden Guide
Descriptions of Madison Gardens

Compiled and Written by
Rick Crown & Richard Simpson

Drawings by
Richard Simpson

Morgan County Landmarks Society
P.O. Box 248
Madison, GA 30650
Cedar Lane Farm

Cedar Lane Farm is an 1830's farmhouse, set in a pastoral and picturesque part of Morgan County. The house is a well preserved example of what is locally known as the Piedmont Plain style, and is the home of Mrs. John Symmes.

The extensive landscape that surrounds the farmhouse holds several gardens. Below is a plan of the Boxwood Garden and on the following pages are plans of the Mixed Borders and the Woodland Garden.
The Border has evolved for over 20 years, and continues to grow and change. One of it's roles is providing a harmonic pageant of the seasons; autumn cools the palette into blues and purples of asters and salvias; pinks of Hardy Begonia and Cosmos; with accents of pale yellow 'Shellagh's Sunshine' sunflower, and clean whites of Japanese Anemone, Beautyberry, and foaming Mongolian Aster.

Perennial indigo Blue Ginger, ebony fruits of Blackberry Lily, velvet 'Illustris' elephant ear, and the saturated purples of annual Tibouchina offer dramatic punctuation. Massive cinnamon trunked 'Natchez Crepe myrtles, now 14 years old, texturally contrast with the silvery black locust split rail fence.

Evergreens combine with the fence to create a strong winter presence. Especially notable is the Dwarf Hinoki Cypress, at the west end, offspring from Fruitland's Nursery; and the Dwarf White Pine, nearly 30 years old, anchoring the east end.

These act in concert with the front of the Border forming an axis leading west through the clipped Cedar Arch and into the Conifer Collection, embracing the pool.

Oldest are the Norway Spruce surviving from an early nursery row, while most surprising may be the 5 year old 'Cold Crest' Monterey Cypress with it's lemongrass fragrance, or the 10 year old 'Globosa Nana' Japanese Redwood.

Beyond the Border is the Shrub Border, providing a backdrop filled with seasonal interest, and behind that are cutting gardens, and beds of asparagus and raspberries, and finally the Orchard.

In the back yard the 3 walnuts are the last remaining "house trees" present when the property was acquired. The fig was on the property and was moved to it's present location, as was the old pink crepe myrtle in the Box Garden, and the 'Cedar Lane' Althea by the garden house.

Note the Madison Jasmine attached to the end of the house; from this hardy vine have come all the millions of it's progeny adorning homes everywhere.

The Kitchen Garden, to the east of the house, has a hardy Bay Laurel and several roses: the climbing 'Sombreuil', a pair of 'Clothilde Soupert', the fragrant white Persian Musk, and an odd Chinese Green.

Among the herbs present, most remarkable is the venerable Weeping Rosemary, at least 15 years old.

The coarse foliage of Horseradish may cause some puzzlement, as might the emerging stalks of wild leeks, naturalized throughout Morgan County.

Be sure to follow the grass path down slope to the Woodland Garden which holds the bold spring that has always been the heart of the farm.
Rogers House-Rose Cottage

The garden that surrounds these two historic Madison homes creates a faithful interpretation for visitors of the flower yards that were common to old Madison homes. June Harrell, ASLA, was the landscape architect for this City of Madison project. There are some necessary modern features to accommodate today's visitors, but the example of the scattered beds and the many historic gives us a glimpse into how previous generations gardened their home landscapes.

Rogers House-Rose Cottage Diagram Key

1. Yucca
2. Rosa Mutabilis
3. Rose
4. Ryan's Pink Chrysanthemum
5. Zinnias, Marigolds & Cosmos
6. Love-in-a-Puff (vine)
7. Verbena bonariensis
8. "Madison" Confederate Jasmine
9. Comphirena
10. Sweet Autumn Clematis (vine)
11. Double Bloom Kerria
12. Ginger Lily
13. Chaste Tree
14. "Miss Huff" Lantana
15. Strawberries
16. Verbena rigidia
17. Orange Ginger
18. Carolina Jasmine
20. Vegetables
21. Fig
22. "Madison Confederate Jasmine" and Morning Glory
23. "Nikko Blue" Hydrangea
24. Cotton
25. Muscadine
26. Gourds
27. Purple Hyacinth Bean
28. Gardenia
29. Sedum "Autumn Joy"
30. Butterfly Bush
31. Cut Leaf Chaste Tree
32. Zebra Grass
33. Cypress Vine
34. "Bonica" Rose
35. Bath's Pink
Brick Cottage

The delightful spaces that are created by this compartmentalized landscape are a good example of structure in the garden. A small space feels larger by dividing it up and concealing parts of the garden from view, only to be revealed by making a journey through the lush landscape. Jeannie Szymes Reid created this garden, taking the germ of a very clever idea from Atlanta garden designer Brooks Garcia, and planting a strong evergreen structure that forms the “bones” of this garden. A visitor to the garden usually arrives first at the parking court. There, a thick planting, which includes Aucuba, Agarista and Mahonia, softens the walls of the house and fence. The visitor chooses a route to the house from the parking court. To the front of the house, a path travels alongside the house. Here, a “Shamrock” Inkberry hedge bounds a mixed border of shrubs and perennials lining the path. In bloom is the fragrant “Clothoise Soupsert” Rose.

The other route leads through the fence gate, first into a landing for the deck, then into the room formed by the lawn. Another space envelops the arbor, while a sand path leads from the lawn, under a cedar arbor and into a potager, planted with herbs and winter vegetables.

---

Brick Cottage
Key to Diagram

1. Walkway to Front
2. Parking Court Planting
3. White Berry Nandina
4. Clematis armandii
5. Potato Vine
6. "Shadow's Female" Yaupon Holly
7. "National" American Boxwood
8. Gardenia Jasminoides
9. Gardenia thunbergii
10. Hardy Agristam
11. "Nellie R. Stevens" Holly
12. "Powis Castle" Artemisia
13. White Butterfly Bush
14. Chaste Tree
15. Prague Viburnum
16. Japanese Redwood
17. Arawaki Viburnum
18. Japanese Maple
19. Stauonua (Vine on Arbor)
20. Round Leaf Osmanthus
21. Hardy Plumago
22. Sarcococca confusa
23. Monogalian Aster
24. Pearl Bush
25. Cedar
26. Rose of Sharon (flanking arbor)
27. Potager
28. "Lydia Morris" Holly
29. "Globoz" Japanese Redwood
30. Rosa moschata "Narzana"
31. Canna
32. Rasa x "Perle d'Or"
33. Cut Leaf Chaste Tree
34. Red Bay
35. Christmas Honeysuckle
36. Fragrant Snowball Viburnum
Variety Works Cottage
Overall Garden Plan

Key to Plants

1. Dutchman's Pipe Vine
2. Umbrella Magnolia
3. Christmas Hollyhock
4. Contorted Mulberry
5. Deutzia
6. Dwarf Hinoki False Cypress
7. Japanese Redwood
8. Nilsson Lily
9. Southern Shield Fern
10. "Mousy" Grass
11. "Berenice Boddy" Camellia
12. "Central Avenue" Snowberry
13. Lindis Butterfly Bush
14. Little Brown Jug Ginger
15. Bottlebrush Buckeye
16. Italian Marble Leaf
17. Spider Lilies and Hardy Pumbago
18. Prague Viburnum
19. Viburnum nudum varieties
20. Evergreen Sweet Bay Magnolia
21. Black Baobab
22. "Crimson Queen" Cut Leaf Japanese Maple
23. Chinese Windmill Palm
24. Tea Camellia
25. Strawberry Tree
26. Justicia spicigera
27. Sasanqua Camellia
28. Euphorbia "Robbie"
29. Butcher's Broom
30. Japanese Maple
31. Sasanqua Camellia
32. Euphorbia "Robbie"
33. Butcher's Broom
34. Japanese Maple
35. Sasanqua Camellia
36. Euphorbia "Robbie"
37. Butcher's Broom
38. Japanese Maple
39. Sasanqua Camellia
40. Euphorbia "Robbie"
41. Butcher's Broom
42. Japanese Maple
43. Sasanqua Camellia
44. Euphorbia "Robbie"
45. Butcher's Broom
46. Japanese Maple
47. Sasanqua Camellia
48. Euphorbia "Robbie"
49. Butcher's Broom
50. Japanese Maple
51. Sasanqua Camellia
52. Euphorbia "Robbie"
53. Butcher's Broom
54. Japanese Maple
55. Sasanqua Camellia
56. Euphorbia "Robbie"
57. Butcher's Broom
58. Japanese Maple
59. Sasanqua Camellia
60. Euphorbia "Robbie"
61. Butcher's Broom
62. Japanese Maple
63. Sasanqua Camellia
64. Euphorbia "Robbie"
65. Butcher's Broom

Variety Works Cottage
White Garden

1. Rain Lilies
2. English Boxwood
3. Persian Musk Rose
4. Ginger Lilies
5. "White Profusion" Butterfly Bush
6. "Asakura" Sasanqua Camellia
7. White Japanese Beauty Berry
8. "September Morn" Camellia
9. White Hardy Ageratum
11. Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal
12. Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal
13. White Wishbone Flower
14. White Variegated Trailing Eremurus
15. Gymnaster
16. "Mountain Fire" Fieris
17. Variegated Acanthopanax
18. Frost Aster
19. "Setsuigokka" Sasanqua Camellia
20. Love-in-a-Puff (vina)
21. Variegated Carex Conica
22. "Goldfinch" Rose (on arbor)
23. Korean Hercules Club
24. White Contelli Plant
25. White Mexican Heather
27. Serissa foetida
28. White Creeping Zinnia
29. Moonflower (on arbor)
30. Italian Marble Leaf
The Variety Works Cottage was built in 1892 by the Madison Variety Works, a local wood mill that turned out scrollwork, built furniture and built homes here in Madison during the latter part of 19th century, into the early 20th century. It is a simple folk Victorian. The large lot that surrounds the house resulted from the burning in the 1920's of a neighboring home, and the subsequent merging of the two properties.

The gardens surrounding the home were created by the current owners, Richard Simpson and Rick Crown, beginning in 1985. Wisteria and privet had engulfed much of the landscape that had been developed by Mrs. Florence Treadaway and her mother-in-law.

Features of the garden that has developed include a mixed border that begins at the front sidewalk and sweeps around the house. Hot colors of orange, red and yellow dominate at first, but melt into blues and pale yellows that round the terrace to become violets, purples and pinks. Leading away from the home towards a back circle of grass are double borders which feature bearns and wet weather bogs.

Other features of this landscape include an octagonal garden of white blooming plants, and a raised bed garden for flowers and vegetables. The balance of the property is gardened as a series of woodland walks with different collections of shrubs and perennials.
McCracken Woods and the Brooks-Hart Landscape

Walk across the lush St Augustine grass lawn to the ample front porch and learn more about the history of this place. At the southern end of the porch follow the Love-in-a-puff vine into Mother’s Garden, where a fragrant tea olive and dogwood stand watch over the site of a very successful goldfish funeral nearly 80 years ago. Currently brightening

**Key**

1. “Charter” White Oak seedling
2. Red Bud
3. Pink Macrantha Azalea
4. Sarcococa confusa
5. Gardenia jasminoides
6. Palmetto
7. Lilac
8. “Cecile Brunner” Sweetheart Rose
9. Hardy Ageratum
10. Rose
11. Lily of the Valley
12. Lipstick Plant (in Foster Pot)
13. “Rosie” Azalea
14. Butterfly Bush
15. American Holly
16. Sedum
17. Lenten Rose
18. Fig
19. Confederate Rose
20. Mother’s Garden
21. Tea Olive
22. Gordonia

---

McCracken Woods

---

McCracken Woods Diagram Key

1. Azaleas
2. Running Liriope
3. Jack’s Grave
4. Palmetto
5. Hosta Collection
6. Hearts a Bustin’
7. Cyclamen
8. Ferns
9. Lenten Rose
10. Southern Shield Fern
11. Foam Flower
12. East Indian Holly Fern
13. Elaeagnus
14. Sugar Maple
15. Swamp Dogwood
16. Christmas Honeysuckle
17. Nippon Lily
Boxwood

This home and garden is unique to Madison, as it is a relatively unchanged example of antebellum architecture in the garden setting originally planned for it. The house was built in the 1830's and is eclectic in its styling, having elements of the Greek Revival, Italianate and Exotic Styles of the mid-19th century. The boxwood parterres that form the gardens on either side of the home are fine examples of this formal landscape style, and were planted soon after the completion of the home.

The eastern parterre has a more formal pattern, reflective of the very square styling of the Greek Revival portico on that side of the house. The boxwood parterre on the west side of the house has a curvilinear pattern, following the example of the porch on that side. Jean and Floyd Newton continue the fine maintenance of this historic landscape. Gardens are dynamic, and a fine balance of preservation with additions and embellishment have created this amazing garden treasure.
Alby Garden

Bob and Joan Alby's garden sweeps around the corner of Walton Street and Old Post Road, cloaking the bungalow style, 1919 home with an intricate planting of shrubs, trees, perennials and annuals. The original design of the garden was created for the Albys by Sara Groves of Oxford, Georgia. The garden was established in 1990, and has grown and evolved ever since.

An important feature of the garden is the evergreen structure—the "Bones" of the landscape—that provide a framework for the flowering plants. A large collection of Hollies is used for this effect, along with other evergreens noted in the plan. The garden is highly visible from the street, and so the plan includes a variety of plants for year round interest.

---

Alby Garden
Key to Plan

1. Helleri Holly
2. Hardy Plumbago
3. "Montevideo" Lavender
4. Lantana
5. "Stella d' Oro" Daylily
6. "Brilliant" Sedum
7. Hardy Agremum
8. "Nellie R. Stevens" Holly
9. "Foster" Holly
10. Comphrena
11. "Margaret" Japanese Anemone
12. Lenten Rose
13. "Forever Pink" Hydrangea
14. Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal
15. Ajuga
17. Hosta venusta
18. Lamb's Ear
19. Round Leaf Osmanthus
20. "Mediland White" Rose
21. "Tuscany Crepe Myrtle
22. "Bally's" Pinks
23. Cadydytul
24. Gaura
25. "Otto Luyken" Laurel
26. Melampodium
27. "Charming" Butterfly Bush
28. "The Fairy" Rose
29. Pacific Chrysanthemum
30. "Edward Goucher" Abelia
31. "Royal Star" Magnolia stellata
32. Burford Holly
33. "Heritage" River Birch
34. "Needlepoint" Holly
35. Latifolia Holly
36. "New Dawn" Rose
37. Yellow Anise
38. "Jean May" Salvia Camellia
39. Tatarian Honeysuckle
La Flora

The front entry garden was born with the cry, "Let's bring the flowers back to La Flora!" Landscape gardeners Madison Gardens designed and installed this garden in 1994 to create a warm and colorful welcome to The Mile’s home all year round.

We have used appropriate plants, many native and historic, as well as new introductions to foster the feel of eclectic Victoriana.

Significant specimens at this time of year are the Miss Huff Lantana, the Chinese Butterfly Rose, the sprawling chartreuse Margarita Sweet Potato, and the Dwarf Red Banana. Against the house foundation is a bed of Silky Gold Milkweed underplanted with white lantana.

A well established Lady Banks Rose arches over the front porch, harboring a clump of ginger lilies at her feet. She consorts with several old Camellia japonica shrubs.

Across the walk a Tangerine Beauty Crossvine scrambles through a pecan, a cascade of orange trumpets in spring.

Alongside the driveway is a mixed shrub border with several evergreens, hydrangeas, bulbs, and groundcovers.

You may notice the small bulb foliage emerging everywhere; this is Blue Star Flower, Ipheion, a South American bulb locally called onion grass due to its strong smell when cut or bruised. In early spring it carpets many Madison lawns with sparkling star flowers of white, pale lilac, and blue. Local lore holds that Mrs. Richard of La Flora introduced this charming and hardy ornamental to the area, and for many years you could tell who her close friends were, for their yards sparkled with Blue Star Flower, too.

Jack Miles has recently restored the old Lily Pool, which now flourishes with fish and flowers to further enhance the back yardscape.

The Red Cottage, built in the 1890’s, was moved to this property by previous owners when it was threatened with demolition, and restored.

Key to Landscape Plan of La Flora

1. Entry Garden
2. Banana Bush
3. Oakleaf Hydrangea
4. Shrub Border
5. Bloodgood Japanese Maple
6. Tea Olive
7. Lenton Rose
8. Evergreen Smilax Vine
9. Bur or Mossycup Oak
10. Pond
11. Wisteria
12. Cottage Garden
Thurleston offers the visitor extensive grounds that have landscape features from successive owners of this landmark, Madison property. Today, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Whiteside continue the tradition of gardening this beautiful property, and have made many significant additions to its interesting landscape.

As you arrive at Thurleston, your eye is drawn down the double row of boxwood leading to the Greek Revival facade of this monumental, ante-bellum house. The boxwood formed the parterre that once embellished the Butler-Hannah home on South Main Street. They were removed to Thurleston, to create this dramatic entry feature. The front lawns on either side of the boxwood walk are dotted with oak, magnolia, pecan, cedar, and dogwood, along with specimens of Live Oak, Pauhownia, and some amazingly tall Chinese Windmill Palms.

To the west of the front grounds is an extensive butterfly garden, filled with Butterfly Bushes, Lantanas, Angel’s Trumpet, and many other plants attractive to butterflies. Closer to the house, old Southern Magnolias conceal ancient Sasanqua Camellias. The Camellia collection forms part of an old Woodland garden sloping down to a lake.

Across from the back of the house, several interesting gardens spill out and away from the new terrace built under spreading pecan trees. A rose garden features many hybrid tea roses, while a winding, gravel path leads past beds of flowering shrubs, perennials and annuals. Past the Smoke House, a wildflower meadow bright with Orange Cosmos melds into a back lawn area. There is also an interesting collection of ornamental grasses adjacent to the wildflower meadow.

To the rear of the property, several ancient features of previous owners may be seen. One is the Oakleaf Hydrangea room, another being the old plantings of crepe myrtles that line the old avenues of the property. Hardy palms may be seen along one of these avenues, including specimens of Palmettos, Needle Palm and Chinese Windmill Palm.

The fence-enclosed Flower and Vegetable Garden forms a focal point for the many garden features on the east side of the property. These include a terrace with new fountain, mixed border beds, and muscadine grape arbor. An extraordinary Lilac tree, rare in this region, grows near the Flower and Vegetable Garden, and is representative of the many surprises and treasures to be found at Thurleston.

Key to Thurleston Landscape Plan

5. Mixed Borders 11. Crinum Lilies
6. Wildflower Meadow
Robson-Mason House and Garden

The Robson-Mason House is set at the boundary where the town quits and the farm fields open up the landscape. This Greek Revival, antebellum house is set in a grove of trees, that shelters it and its interesting gardens. It is the home of Charles and Janet Mason.

To the front of the house, a great lawn is bordered with American Boxwood that sweep along the drives. Tree specimens that dot this front landscape include Southern Red Oak, Chinese Chestnut, Sugar Maple, Live Oak, Southern Magnolia, Gingko and a Long Leaf Pine.

At the entry to the house, a mixed border of shrubs, perennials and annuals greets the visitor. Butterfly plants are favored in this garden, and include “Miss Huff” Lantana, a Butterfly Bush, and different selections of Asclepias (a favorite plant of Monarch butterflies). The beds are bordered with hardy plumbago underplanted with spider lilies. Backing the garden and clambering over the porch is “Madison” Confederate Jasmine.

To the west of the house, a sculpture garden is found under the spreading limbs of pecan trees. A mighty wisteria vine cloaks the swing beyond the garden. Behind the house, muscadine grapes grow on three fence rows. A pine wood shelters a growing collection of camellias.

Closer to the house, a boxwood parterre holds many garden treasures, including many more camellias. Around the screened-in porch, fragrant plants are favored, with an ancient Orange Tea Olive at the corner, dwarf Gardenias, and a Clethra. Underplanting these are Upland River Oats, and “Francis Williams” Hosta.

A new addition to the landscape is the Tenant House, recently moved to the property. It now serves as a guest house. Around it several new garden beds in a cottage style are being created.

Key to Robson-Mason House Garden Plan

4. Woodland Sculpture Garden  14. Tenant Cottage/Art Exhibit
The Richter Cottage

The City of Madison was founded in 1809. One of the earliest settlements was in the area known as Round Bowl Springs, a natural ridge with an abundant fresh water supply which made it an ideal trade route for Indians and later, a stage coach stop for pioneers who were travelling between Philadelphia and New Orleans.

One such traveller, Mr. Charles Richter was an inventor and silversmith. He purchased a small cottage built around 1830, settled down, and set up shop near Tanyard Creek.

Over the years, the cottage fell into disrepair and was in danger of being razed or even moved. However, in 1979, Dr. Josephine Brandon rallied her 7th grade history students to raise funds to stabilize the deteriorating structure. Since then, the cottage with its rich history has served as a link between the natural environment, the people, and the places that are the historical heart of Madison.

But the work is ongoing. The Landmarks Garden Tour is challenged by a grant to raise matching funds, which funds will be used to restore the cottage as a Heritage Education Teaching Museum. Garden landscaping will bring new beauty to the little cottage and will symbolize community renewal for Madison and all of Morgan County -- and we sincerely appreciate your support.