News from Hills & Dales ESTATE



A HISTORIC PROPERTY OF FULLER E. CALLAWAY FOUNDATION

Welcome

With the excitement of the holidays behind us and the rebirth of spring ahead of us, what could be a better time to focus on our physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing?

As this new year unfolds, we invite you to take advantage of the peace and serenity of the garden by taking a leisurely stroll through the boxwood, enjoying a picnic under the beautiful canopy of pecan trees or simply finding a quiet place to reflect. Inspiration also awaits in Horticulture Manager Jo Phillips' article, "A Slice of Eden," where you can learn how to create your own oasis while never having to leave home! For enriching activities outside the home, our new Wellness Wednesdays program offers the perfect blend of relaxation and exercise in historic Ferrell Gardens.

Perhaps your happiness comes from being surrounded by friends and family, enjoying the fellowship and memories that come with being around those you love. Our signature events, including Picnic in the Garden, Fuller Sr.'s Birthday Celebration, Children's Summer Activities and Storytelling in the Pecan Grove, are all perfect opportunities to get together. It's not always easy for everyone to gather in one place, as this past year definitely revealed. In his article, "A Special Friendship," Carleton Wood examines a long-lasting bond unhindered by distance or time.

Make your health and happiness a priority this year ... and let Hills and Dales help along the way!

On the Cover: Alice Hand Callaway (right) shows a new flower crop in the greenhouse to her friend Catherine Mitchell Lynn, also known as Katie, in 1966.

Table of Contents

OUR MISSION: To preserve and share the unique horticulture, architecture and history of Hills and Dales Estate with current and future generations. To provide an engaging and authentic experience that fosters an understanding of how we value integrity, preservation, generosity, family and faith in God.

VALUES: Faith in God, Family, Perseverance with Integrity, Community, Stewardship, Education and Graciousness

Editor: Haley Merciers Contributing Editors: Carleton Wood, Haley Merciers and Jo Phillips Graphic Design: Christy Gresley

4	A Slice of Eden
7	Grab & Go Bouquets from the Gift Shop
8	Wellness Wednesdays
10	A Special Friendship
16	Children's Summer Activities
17	Picnic in the Garden
18	Founder's Day Celebration
19	Mill Exhibit Highlight
20	Workshops
22	Events Calendar

A Slice of Eden

1200 Vernon Road La Grange, Georgia 30240

By now I hape you are turily. engaged ite gardenning, what a balm it is to warries and tension taken. ear I am uport I head straight out to my garden and after a few hours of prining, digging, tuilding ar proxing up dead blassoms I fee that the world is alregat again. Vo. day is a gargeous day and after my tisual marning Visit to the haspital I plan to wark autical this afternoon. Things are treginning to heasson aut and I can't hear to stay inside and miss any of the heauty

What is it about gardening, or simply being in a lovely garden, that the human soul finds so soothing? To be sure, there are any number of opinions, but since I have your attention, here is mine: gardens touch something primordial in our psyche; instincts and responses arise from prehistory, perhaps from a time when we were much more attuned with the natural world than many of us are now. Those feelings of tranquility may happen because we've connected with our origins, an idea not so strange if you believe, as I do, that life itself began in just such a setting.

It is also my belief that all humans have some form of creativity given to them innately, and though the creative urge to garden might not be universal, it is very prevalent. It is an art form as well. That is another reason we are emotionally soothed by both the act of gardening and the experience of being in one, for the relationship between art and emotion is widely acknowledged. The above quote from Mrs. Callaway's letter serves to underscore the research confirming that such productive activity

is effective for relieving stress and anxiety, at the same time that it testifies to the joy of being surrounded by the garden's spring charms.

We know that gardening for ornament and pleasure, rather than just for sustenance, dates back thousands of years. From the Hanging Gardens of ancient Babylon and the palace and temple gardens of Egypt, China and India, to Rome's peristyle and villa gardens, it is clear that as civilization developed, humankind incorporated beautiful spaces for relaxation and entertaining. Happily, this art form once reserved for only the wealthiest institutions or members of society is now much more attainable for "average folk."

So, suppose you want to create your own piece of paradise. What would be the required features to make it an actual garden? In other words, what would be needed to differentiate it from a pretty landscape or yard, if you will.

Consider these elements:

- 1) A path or paths. There must be one or more, depending on the size of the property. Also, ponder where each is going and where it will end. Paths can be grass, stone, gravel, brick, etc. Whatever suits you and your budget.
- **2)** Enclosure. This gives a sense of privacy and being set apart from the rest of the world. Hedges, fences or walls come to mind here, with hedges being the least expensive and walls likely being the most.

- 3) An entrance. Be it an arched arbor or a gate, an entryway both invites the viewer in and divides the space from everywhere else.
- 4) Seating. People will want a place to sit and linger when the weather is nice and the surroundings are lovely.
- 5) Water. Every garden should have a water feature, but it need not be elaborate. Something about the sound of water, though, is so peaceful and calming.
- 6) Ornament. Items like appropriate figurines or statuary, sundials, birdbaths, and gazing globes fall into this category. Besides being attractive to look at, they also lend weight and counterpoint.



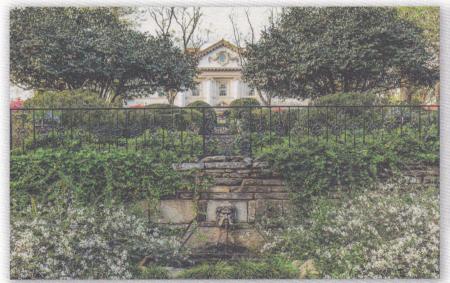
Three Magnolia espaliers create the perfect backdrop for a seating area in the courtyard garden while indian hawthorne hedges encircle the quiant nook.

All of these details contribute to the 'bone structure' of a garden, so to speak. To borrow a phrase I heard once from talented garden designer and native Georgian, Brooks Garcia, "Beauty is all about good bone structure. If the garden looks good in January, it can't help but look good in June."

Other key aspects to a garden's level of artistry and interest are pattern (achieved with plants or hardscape, for example), light and how it is captured or reflected, mystery, romance, and whimsy. Most of these can also be attained when incorporating the elements numbered above—that is, water can reflect light, as could an ornament; curved paths can lend an aura of

mystery because the end might not be visible until a certain point is reached; ornaments can provide a sense of romance, whimsy, or perhaps both.

At this point, perhaps you're inspired to begin working on your own slice of Eden. Don't lose sight of the fact that creativity is simply the by-product of passion, hard work and tenacity. Or, perhaps you're more inspired to visit an established garden, study and reflect on all of these design components, and soak in the beauty and peace. I know just the place... ~JP





Alice Callaway with the sundial in the Herb Garden circa 1970. (Left) South elevation view of the home from the face fountain in the Sunken Garden looking up at the terraces toward the home.

From the Gift Shop



February 11th - 13th

Celebrate your Valentine this year with a grab and go bouquet from Hills and Dales Estate and Wildflower MJ. Featuring greenery from historic Ferrell Gardens and beautiful seasonal blooms, these bouquets are the perfect way to share your love. Bouquets will be available for purchase during regular operating hours while supplies last. \$50 per bouquet. Members receive a 10% discount. For more information, call 706-882-3242 or email info@hillsanddales.org.



Wellness Wednesdays

English poet Alfred Austin said, "The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." This spring at Hills and Dales Estate, feed your mind, body, and spirit with our Wellness Wednesdays program. Classes include Yoga with Lisa Alford, Find Peace and Thrive: Chair Yoga and Meditation with Selina Dominguez, and Guided Garden Walks: Exploring History and Horticulture in the Garden with a member of Hills and Dales Estate's staff. Each class will begin at the Visitor's Center and last one hour. \$10 per person per class. Purchase more than 5 classes to receive a discounted rate of \$8 per class. All classes are complimentary for Hills and Dales Estate members.

Description of series:

Lisa L. Alford has taught a variety of Yoga classes at The Inner Path Yoga Studio on Smith Street for 17 years. She will be teaching a Hatha style yoga class which is a gentle, slow class for beginners that is designed to align, cleanse and calm your body, mind and spirit. A typical class starts with gentle warm-ups that transitions into a sequence of yoga poses and ends with a short meditation. Please bring your own mat.

Selina Dominguez is the owner of Thrive Mind, Body & Soul, a well-being studio dedicated to transforming and healing the world back to love, one person and one community at a time. Through meditation and chair yoga, she will help you experience a decrease in stress, clarity of thinking, greater creativity, feelings of happiness and peace.

Walking is not only a great way to exercise your body, but also improves your mood and memory! Take brisk guided walks through historic Ferrell Gardens and surrounding grounds while estate staff members explore topics ranging from history to horticulture.





Sessions Schedule

March 10 10am to 11am March 24 10am to 11am April 7 5:30pm to 6:30pm April 21 10am to 11am May 5 5:30pm to 6:30pm May 19 10am to 11am June 2 5:30pm to 6:30pm June 16 5:30pm to 6:30pm

10am to 11am

June 30

Guided Garden Walks: Exploring History and Horticulture in the Garden

Find Peace and Thrive: Chair Yoga and Meditation

Guided Garden Walks: Exploring History and Horticulture in the Garden

Hatha Yoga

Find Peace and Thrive: Chair Yoga and Meditation

Guided Garden Walks: Exploring History and Horticulture in the Garden

Guided Garden Walks: Exploring History and Horticulture in the Garden

Hatha Yoga

Guided Garden Walks: Exploring History and Horticulture in the Garden

A Special Friendship

Leavest Ratie

The adarable picture of
Rathie brightened our Christman
mare these anything the releised.
The is puriply heartiful and
lasks so sweet and dointy
we think she hacks hactly
like you and are so thisled
over it. I wowedn't take anything for the picture and
have shown it to everyone
with such pride. Cauldn't

So replied Alice Hand Callaway to a friend in a letter dated January 6, 1943. Little did I know that my path would cross with the adorable little girl Mrs. Callaway mentioned some 70 years later.

In 2013, I attended the Southern Garden History Society annual meeting in

Lynchburg, Virginia. There, I learned from a friend about a woman. Catherine W. Lynn, who reportedly had family from LaGrange and knew the Callaways. We didn't actually meet, but our mutual friend followed up on the connection, and some months later an unexpected box arrived at Hills and Dales. Much to my surprise, it was from Catherine Lynn of Lynchburg! Catherine's mother had passed away some years earlier and, while cleaning out, she discovered a number of letters that her mother had received from Alice Callaway between 1941 and 1993. In 2020, another bulging envelope arrived, full of cards, clippings and more correspondence. All told, the two collections include over 75 letters, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, photographs, and Christmas cards. This treasure trove of documents provides a beautiful

glimpse into the life of Mrs. Callaway and highlights a special friendship that lasted a lifetime.

This wonderful stash was saved by Mrs. William Lynn Jr. (1907-2001) who grew up in LaGrange and was born the same year as Fuller Callaway Ir. Mrs. Lynn was a Mitchell before marriage and was usually just called Katie. Her parents were Dr. and Mrs. Louis Mitchell Sr., who lived at 207 Hill Street. Her father was a dentist, while her mother, Martha, descended from the Banks family and through that lineage was related to the Callaways. Not surprisingly, Fuller Jr. and Katie became childhood friends while growing up in LaGrange at the same time.

After Fuller Jr. married Alice in 1930, a relationship blossomed between Alice and Katie that would last for nearly 70 years. The family friendship was so strong that Katie's marriage to William Lynn Jr. took place in the living room at Hills and Dales on November 8, 1930. According to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, "The home was beautifully decorated with quantities of flowers from the gardens. In the living room, where the ceremony was performed, white chrysanthemums, roses and snapdragons were used in a background of ferns and palms. White cathedral tapers in silver candelabras were placed on the improvised alter."





(Left) Fuller Callaway Jr. and Katie, both age seven, attended the wedding of a mutual friend in 1914. Alice Hand Callaway (right) standing with Katie in front of the pool house at Hills and Dales in 1953.

After the wedding, the couple settled some 500 miles from LaGrange in Lynchburg, Virginia, where Bill ran a hotel. Thus began the letter writing between the two young wives, nearly all penned in old-fashioned cursive. They paint a picture of true closeness as Alice shares the ups and downs of life, describing joys and documenting routine trials and tribulations. I suspect the two women bonded because they shared so many things in common. To be honest, reading such personal content brings me a bit of guilt, as they were written for an audience of one. They do, however, provide a wonderful view into a life welllived and what better way to experience it than in Alice's own words?

In the letters, she comments on topics that include the challenges of raising teenagers, tackling illnesses head on, and the ongoing task of making a happy home. In 1946, she wonders out loud about Fuller Jr.'s health after he was thrown from a horse, broke three ribs, and lost consciousness. Fortunately, he recovered. On August 14, 1942, Alice laments:

Fully in warking anyfully hand but nanaged to kelay when he comes have. I have hear send anyone like him. Sometimes & wonder why he rest cragg with so much as him and he can come have at himes and selep like a haly in furt a shart time. I am glad he is getting away though we are taking gearge to drivers ihat phaned relieve him at that the children are a pleasure rather than a miniauce.

These concerns are counterbalanced by a wide range of cherished memories — her son Fuller III learning to drive, daughter Ida's first date, trips to summer camp, attending family weddings, the birth of a new grandchild, and stories of the family spending time together. Alice also periodically celebrates accomplishments both big and small, such as learning to type, volunteering for the Red Cross, and the completion of their newly remodeled kitchen. One particularly heartwarming story occurred on January 6, 1964, when she writes, "We drove down to Sarasota ... where we met Fuller III. He had brought a 40' sail boat from California to enter

the six races of the Southern Ocean Racing Club. The first took place before we arrived and was from Miami to Cat Cay. His boat came in third in this race. Then the day after we arrived the second race started from St. Petersburg to Venice . . . The following morning the boats started coming into Venice and we drove down to see the finish and attend the awards dinner that evening. The "Conquistador" (Fuller's boat) won the race so we couldn't have been there at a better time for happiness for all."

Sprinkled throughout their correspondences are tales of common friends, gifts received and travels. Numerous special gifts she received from friends and family are documented, including a handmade pillow, a hand-painted tray, a gardening

book, a beautiful new rug with a flower pattern, a hand-knitted silk handkerchief set, and a gift to LaGrange College in her honor. When the present came from Katie, Alice would always compliment her on her ability to give the



perfect gift! She also details upcoming trips and recounts ones that have passed. On a postcard from August 1944, written from Eaton's Ranch in Wolf, Wyoming, Alice reveals the following, "Just wanted you to know I was thinking of you while I had time to write away from home. We're enjoying the ranch as much as before and Fuller III and Ida are happier than I've ever seen them. They ride with us twice a day and have even been on two all day trips way up in the mountains. Hope your family are all well ... Love to the both of you."

Besides often being apologetic that she does not write enough, other common threads throughout are periodic mentions of the weather, and highlights from the garden, the latter being a topic that clearly brought her much pleasure. In 1943 she recounts, "I wish that you could have seen our camellias about two weeks ago. They were a solid mass of blooms and the hedge around the terrace next to the house with thirty bushes of the same variety in full bloom made a beautiful sight. Our last hard freeze killed them so they are now brown on the bush, a sad reminder of their past glory. I have bought eleven new plants this year, rare varieties, and hope to add to them each year. The garden looks lovely to me and I like Mr. Miles, the new gardener very much. He keeps things Spic and Span the way I like to see them."





Left to right

A fish-design throw pillow Katie made and gifted to Alice Hand Callaway.

Dr. and Mrs. Louis Mitchell (Katie's parents) are pictured on the front porch of their home with a friend in 1915. The Mitchell home was located at 207 Hill Street.

Fuller Callaway Jr. painted this watercolor of Catherine Mitchell Lynn's childhood home on Hill Street in LaGrange in 1954. Fuller gifted the painting to Catherine. Then on May 2, 1976,

1200 Vernon Rd. LaGrange, Georgia 30240

Dearest Matrie -

warm weather and when the returned one of the agalea, dagwood and wisteria theorem were over. I had planted 1000 tulis has fall for a garden Tour

one bloom left when I arrived so not only one bloom left when I arrived so not only were they not pretty for the town but I missed them, too! I do said they were gargeous and did take some pictures for me.

It's a shame that handwritten letters (and cursive writing) are rapidly becoming things of the past. This wonderful collection is proof that such personal missives are the best and most humane way to stay connected with a distant friend, and we are so thankful they have been saved! In the words of children's book author Susan Lendroth, "To write is human, to get mail: Divine!" I am certain that Alice and Katie would agree. ~CBW



Catherine Willis Lynn gifted the estate a wonderful collection of personal letters and note cards that her mother received from Alice Hand Callaway. The correspondence spans from 1941 through 1993.

A special thanks to Catherine W. Lynn for saving her mother's letters and sharing them with us. Much appreciation to Jane B. White for fostering this connection.





Children's Summer Activities

Get Outside This Summer at Hills & Dales Estate!

Join us at the Pool Terrace or in the Pecan Grove from 10am to 11am for children's activities, including stories and crafts, and bring a sack lunch to enjoy after the activity. All attendees will receive complimentary garden access. Free for children ages 13 and under, \$5 per adult. One chaperone is required for every three children. Rain or shine.

Calendar of Activities

June 11 Story Time with Mama Jama

June 25 Puppet Storytelling with Natalie Jones

July 9 Soil Painting with Haley Merciers

July 23 Photography Scavenger Hunt with Shannon Belletti

Call 706-882-3242 or email info@hillsanddales.org to register.



Founder's Day Celebration



On July 15, 1870, Fuller E. Callaway Sr. was born in LaGrange, Georgia. Each year, we celebrate this occasion by offering complimentary tours of the home and garden. On Thursday, July 15, join us from 10am to 5pm for a look inside the Callaway family home and a stroll around historic Ferrell Gardens. You can also enjoy fresh-squeezed lemonade at the Pool Terrace beginning at 11am while supplies last. That evening, the Donald Davis Storytelling Workshop participants will hold a public storytelling in the Pecan Grove at 7pm. This event is also free to the public, and guests are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets.

Sidebar: Maya Angelou once said, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." We agree! For the 6th year, award-winning storyteller Donald Davis will hold a seminar on his craft at Hills and Dales Estate from July 11 to 17. If you are interested in learning the process for relieving your own particular agony by participating in the Donald Davis Storytelling Workshop, please email info@hillsanddales.org.

Mill Exhibit Highlight

In 1965, Callaway Mills created a special carpet-tufting device dubbed "Honesty Tufting" which allowed for the tufting of very narrow-gauge fabrics and improved production efficiency. The machine utilized pressurized air and hollow needles set within a channel block, as opposed to a needle bar, and was a major advancement in tufting technology. Joe T. Short invented the technology and Jimmy Moore, a local machinist, helped Joe manufacture the specialized needle. This one-of-a-kind tie pin, featuring the "Honesty Needle" was given to Jimmy in appreciation of his work on the project. The pin, on loan to the estate from Mrs. Jewel Moore, can be seen as part of our exhibit, Spinning a Yarn: Unraveling the Callaway Mills Story, which will be on display through the end of February.



Spring Workshops

Workshop fees include supplies and refreshments. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Registration for members opens January 18. Workshop registration for non-members opens January 25. Call 706-882-3242 or email info@hillsanddales.org to register. Annual members receive a 20% discount.



REPTILES ON THE ROAD

February 20, 10am to 12pm

Dr. Lauren Johnson from Oxbow Meadows in Columbus will present a live reptile show at Hills and Dales Estate. Participants will learn about native snakes, turtles, tortoises, amphibians, and more! Lauren will identify habitats that signal the presence of local reptiles. \$10 per adult, \$5 per child. Membership discount does not apply.



FROM SEED TO PLANT WITH SUCCESS

February 27, 10am to 12pm

Believe it or not, February is the perfect time to start growing your victory garden! Hills and Dales Estate horticulturists Charlotte Baker and Jo Phillips will conduct this hands-on workshop as they reveal insider secrets to growing vegetable plants from seed, enabling you to save money and greatly expand the varieties you can try. Each participant will plant seeds in a flat to grow for their own gardens. \$30 per person.

50342







PANORAMIC SUGAR EGGS

March 13, 10am to 12pm

50 373

Alice Callaway had a penchant for Easter decorations. She would often purchase panoramic sugar eggs for the young children in her family to celebrate this spring holiday, much to their delight. Come decorate your own charming masterpiece with icing and whimsical miniatures, but whether you gift it or keep for yourself is completely up to you! \$30 per person.

EN PLEIN AIR PAINTING: PEACEFUL GARDEN PATHWAYS

April 24, 10am to 12pm

Experience the joys of Plein Air painting in historic Ferrell Gardens with Victoria Slagle, artist and LaGrange Art Museum Education Coordinator. Victoria will walk you through the steps of painting an outdoor study of "Peaceful Garden Pathways" in acrylic on a canvas panel. She will be focusing on capturing light and shadow of a landscape as well as color mixing. Every experience level is welcome and all supplies are included. All you need to bring is your creativity! \$60 per person. LAM Members also receive a 20% discount.

CREATING A POLLINATOR GARDEN

May 22, 10am to 12pm

Honeybees often get the spotlight, but did you know there are thousands of other insects that pollinate your garden? Join us on May 30 to learn about native insects responsible for the pollination of plants and how you can attract them to your garden. You will even leave with a small collection of plants to help begin your very own pollinator-friendly garden! \$25 per person.

563/0

Events Calendar

All activities are subject to change. Please call 706-882-3242 or email info@hillsanddales.org for more information.

JANUARY SATURDAY Behind the Scenes Tour	FEBRUARY $_{ au HURSDAY-SATURDAY}$ $11-13$ Grab and Go Valentine's Bouquets		FEBRUARY SATURDAY 20 Reptile Show by Oxbow Meadows
FEBRUARY SATURDAY 27 From Seed to Plant with Success	MARCH WEDNESDAY 10 Wellness Wednesday	MARCH SATURDAY 13 Panoramic Sugar Eggs	MARCH WEDNESDAY 24 Wellness Wednesday
APRIL WEDNESDAY Wellness Wednesday	APRIL WEDNESDAY 21 Wellness Wednesday	APRIL SATURDAY 24 En Plein Air Painting with LaGrange Art Museum	MAY WEDNESDAY 5 Wellness Wednesday

MAY SATURDAY 8 Picnic in the Garden	MAY WEDNESDAY 19 Wellness Wednesday	MAY SATURDAY 22 Pollinator Garden	JUNE WEDNESDAY 2 Wellness Wednesday
JUNE FRIDAY 11 Children's Summer Activity I	JUNE WEDNESDAY 16 Wellness Wednesday	JUNE FRIDAY 25 Children's Summer Activity II	JUNE WEDNESDAY 30 Wellness Wednesday
JULY FRIDAY 9 Children's Summer Activity III	JULY THURSDAY 15 Fuller Sr. Birthday Celebration	JULY THURSDAY 15 Donald Davis Workshop Public Storytelling	JULY FRIDAY 23 Children's Summer Activity IV

Hours of Operation

JULY - FEBRUARY

Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

MARCH - JUNE

Tuesday – Saturday 10 am – 6 pm Sunday 1 pm – 6 pm

House and Garden Tour

\$20 Adult, \$18 Senior and Military \$8 Student (Age 8 - College) Children 7 and under are free

Garden Tour

\$10 Adult, Senior and Military \$5 Student (Age 8 - College) Children 7 and under are free

Special rates are available for group tours and members.

Hills & Dales Estate 1916 Hills and Dales Drive LaGrange, Georgia 30240

hillsanddales.org | 706-882-3242

- f Like us on Facebook
- (a) @hillsanddales