



Newsletter

December 2015

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS 2015

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015

- Conducted the **Annual Meeting** at Littlehouse Gallery, Homewood. John Lauriello spoke and Bob Moody signed copies of the BHS 2015 publication: *Bob Moody's Birmingham—A City in Watercolor*.
- Researched 74 years of scientific endeavor at **Southern Research Institute** and selected photographs from the Institute's superb photographic collections in preparation for a 75th anniversary publication, due out in 2016. Fell in love with Chairman Tom Martin and his zeal for building scientific endeavor.
- Began research on the history of **Shades Creek** from geological and archeological time to the present for a future publication: *A New Look at an Old Creek—Birmingham, Alabama's Shades Creek*.
- Researched and published a statement of historic context for the creation of the **Confederate Monument** in today's Linn Park.
- Researched and published a statement of historical context for the **Jefferson County Courthouse murals**, entitled "The Old South and the New South."
- Hosted the annual **Heritage Society Luncheon** at the Brower-Hill-Head House on Ridge Road.
- Continued to grow **Grandmother's Garden** using early 20th century heirloom plants and practices, with the help of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Master Gardeners. Developed signage for the garden. Conducted the annual Spring Equinox Plowing Party. This demonstration home garden of kitchen and medicinal herbs, perennials and vegetables is open to the public year round.
- **Renovated the porches** of our offices at Duncan House at Sloss.
- Acquired an overhead scanner, learned how to use it, and digitized and made searchable 12,000 pages of

the annual records of the Society dating to the 1940s, including newsletters, invitations, minutes of meetings, budgets, correspondence, and photographs. Most of these records were in bound volumes! Thank you Scott Fuller for making this possible!

- Reprinted *Bob Moody's Birmingham* and *A Walk to Freedom*.

EVENTS COMING IN 2016

- **Sunday, February 14, 2:30-4:30 p.m.**
A Victorian Valentine Party, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the rebirth of the Birmingham Historical Society in 1976 and many of those who made it prosper. The Clubhouse on Highland, 2908 Highland Avenue.
- March TBA. The Spring Equinox **Plowing Party**, Grandmother's Garden, Sloss.
- Sunday, Noon, late fall TBA, **Heritage Society Luncheon**, Johnson-Slaughter House, 2942 Cherokee Road.
- **TBA, Publication Celebration** of *For Science and Humanity—74 Years at Southern Research Institute*. Southern Research, and the Castle, 2000 9th Avenue South.
- **TBA, Publication Celebration** for the 300-page, 400-color photograph book: *Warren H. Manning, Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner* by the Library of Landscape History, Amherst, MA. Birmingham and Mountain Brook are in it.
- Monday, February 27, 2017. Publication Celebration for Frances Robb and her book: *Shot in Alabama—A History of Photography, 1839-1941*.

To receive the 2016 publication on the Southern Research Institute, 2016 dues must be paid. Books will be mailed if not picked up at the party at Southern Research. Date TBA.

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Grandmother's Garden
 Built and maintained by
 Birmingham
 Historical Society
 With the assistance of the
 Alabama Cooperative
 Extension Service (ACES)
 and
 Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark
 A Museum of the City of Birmingham




Louise McPhillips illustrated Sloss Quarters surrounding our garden rooms planted with roses and perennials, kitchen and medicinal herbs and vegetables.



To define the garden entrance, a mulberry row in the former slag pile was planted.



Pick axes and a few prayers accompanied the planting of the seedlings.



They grew. The shotgun was renovated and its swept-dirt yard planned.



Gardeners: Linda Goode, Christopher Pugh, Mary McLaughlin and a rosemary.



There was some dirt in the side yard for the sweet olive planting.



Our master gardeners won a statewide award of excellence for their work.



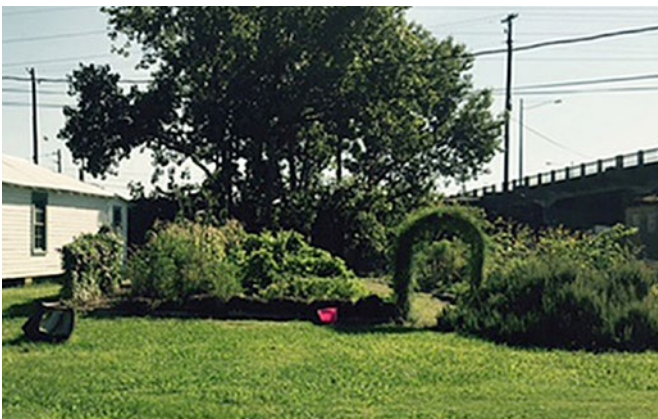
Plowing and mulching day prepared the veggie garden for spring planting.



American Beauty Roses on the front fence.



White, medicinal, yarrow.



Well-conditioned soil, manure, and abundant rain helped grow great tomatoes, peppers...



The "Katrina Survivor" rose on the back porch rail.



Comfrey and rosemary.



Corn, okra, and the Italian specialty gogootz or snake gourd.



Our Peggy Martin Rose.



Valerian.



To eat snake gourds, harvest when less than two-feet long.



Medicinal herbs, left; roses and perennials, right.



Passion Flower or May Pop.



Antonia Viteri and Chris Pugh show the weekly harvest of snake gourds.



A cascade of Petit Scotch Roses.



Chives.