

Twinleaf Turns Twenty



The popular Twinleaf catalog converted to a journal format in 1998.

EACH PASSING YEAR brings a host of anniversaries, birthdays, and milestones. Notable events in 2008 include the tercentenary of Historic Annapolis, the 150th anniversary of the purchase of George Washington's Mount Vernon, and The Garden Club of Virginia's observance of its 75th Historic Garden Week, to cite but a few. For the Center for Historic Plants, 2008 is a milestone of a different sort: the twentieth edition of *Twinleaf*, the center's annual journal and catalog. Because this periodical serves not only as catalog and informational newsletter for CHP and Monticello's garden restoration, but also, as a catalyst for original research and a means for publishing in-depth articles on Thomas Jefferson's gardens and landscapes, it seems entirely appropriate to dedicate this issue to the publication itself.



In 1988, after the center's first full year in operation as a nursery facility and "plant shop," CHP launched a mail-order venture with a modest, one-page listing of twenty-five Monticello garden seed varieties. The following year, the "Monticello Garden Seeds" grew from an 8-½" by 11" flyer to a large, 14" by 24" sheet, folded to create a six-page booklet. John T. Fitzpatrick, the center's first director, designed the seed list as a modern-day reflection of the broadside catalogs typically used by such early American nurserymen as Bernard McMahon, William Prince, and John Bartram to advertise their supply of seed and nurs-

ery stock. "The Monticello Seedlist and CHP Newsletter," included reviews of CHP's educational programs and sales activities. Peter Hatch, Monticello's director of gardens and grounds, contributed a detailed account of the previous year's significant harvests, especially from the Monticello fruit garden. It was the first



The Monticello Seedlist and CHP Newsletter in its infancy in 1989.



The Center for Historic Plants seed packets designed by Gail McIntosh.

year of production for the ‘Red Dutch’ currant and the ‘Royal George’ peach. The ‘Oldmixon Free’ peach bore fruit by the bushel. Nearly 1,000 ‘Marseilles’ figs were gathered, and the ‘Angelique’ fig bore its first crop. Our vintners first manufactured wine from the restored vineyard, an accomplishment probably never realized by Jefferson himself. The seed offerings grew to 48 varieties and included a new line of seeds in a packet designed exclusively for CHP by Charlottesville graphic artist Gail McIntosh. These CHP generated seed varieties were not exclusive to Jefferson’s period, in keeping with the broader scope of the program.

The Annual Seedlist & Newsletter becomes *Twinleaf*

For the 1990 issue, CHP christened its annual publication *Twinleaf*, the common name of Jefferson’s botanical namesake, *Jeffersonia diphylla*. The dual allusion to the plant itself and a symbolic “leaf” of paper made this an ideal choice for its publication. The following year, CHP commissioned Gail McIntosh to paint botanical-namesake watercolors of plants named for six eminent Americans: John Clayton (*Claytonia virginiana*), Benjamin Franklin (*Franklinia alatamaha*), John Mitchell (*Mitchella repens*), Dr. Caspar Wister (*Wisteria frutescens*), William Maclure (*Maclura pomifera*), and of course, Thomas Jefferson. The back of the note cards included the story of the honored individual, researched and written by John Fitzpatrick with the assistance of CHP’s volunteer Wayne Goodall.

Research historian Lucia (Cinder) Stanton contributed her article “A



Some of Gail McIntosh’s notecards honoring American namesake plants from 1991. (These cards are out of print and unfortunately no longer available.)

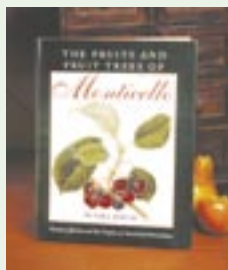
Botanical Anniversary,” for the 1992 issue commemorating 200 years since the botanist Benjamin Smith Barton proposed this new genus *Jeffersonia* before a meeting of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. Barton added that he was not honoring Jefferson’s political character or his reputation for general science and literature, but rather “his knowledge of natural history. In the various departments of this science, but especially in botany and in zoology, the information of this gentleman is equaled by that of few others in the United-States.”

Thomas Jefferson’s 250th Birthday Salute

Nineteen-ninety three was a banner year

for Monticello as we celebrated the 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson’s birth (April 13, 1743). The foundation sponsored a yearlong series of events honoring the occasion, beginning January 17 with a “chilly, teeth-chattering” pre-dawn gathering of 3,500 participants for president-elect William Jefferson Clinton and vice-president-elect Albert Gore, who launched their inaugural journey to Washington, DC on the steps of Monticello’s West Portico and Garden Front. During that year, the foundation initiated the Evening Conversations Series, envisioned by Peter Hatch, as both academic forum and garden party. This summer series continues today, ever growing in popularity. Peter Hatch’s lead

Important Garden Books from CHP



The Fruits and Fruit Trees of Monticello

Jefferson's fruit plantings, his orchards, vineyards, berry squares, and nursery, have been gradually and painstakingly recreated at Monticello. Author Peter J. Hatch is Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello. Paperback, 222 pages, 181 illustrations.

ITEM #194200 \$14.95



The American Gardener's Calendar

The American Gardener's Calendar is the most comprehensive gardening book published in the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century. Used extensively by Thomas Jefferson.

Hardcover, 648 pages.

ITEM #013069 \$45.00

For details and to order check out: **WEB:** www.twinleaf.org or call us at **PHONE:** 800 243-1743

article for *Twinleaf* 1994 offers a thumbnail sketch of the wide-ranging birthday year highlights, from Mikhail Gorbachev's remarks and historian Gary Wills' toast to Jefferson on April 13 to food historian Karen Hess' description of the cuisine of Monticello to the "sage of botanical history," Dr. Joseph Ewan, on the four habitats of Jefferson. Henry Mitchell, author and garden writer for the *Washington Post*, spoke at two events a few months before his death on November 5, offering humorous and poignant observations about Jefferson's gardens. "Mr. Mitchell's probing irreverence and spontaneous wit," according to Hatch, "captured both the hearts and minds of his audiences." For CHP, 1993 marked a leadership change as Peggy Cornett (then Peggy C. Newcomb) replaced John Fitzpatrick, who resigned to become director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation near Seattle, Washington. Finally, the year

reprint of the 1806 first edition of Bernard McMahon's *The American Gardener's Calendar*, the most comprehensive gardening work of the first half of the nineteenth century.

Twinleaf: Catalog

The catalog began as a seedlist, but in 1994, the mail-order program expanded by incorporating a "Jefferson Collection" of four plants (blackberry lily, Fleur-de-lis iris, cardinal flower, and Maltese cross) and three unusual bulbs. For 1996, *Twinleaf* included a "Fruit Garden" of apples and figs as well as a new selection of plants. This was the first year for hollyhocks (both the Monticello mixed variety and the black form) and the extremely popular and coveted Caracalla bean. Some of the many North American species Jefferson recorded and cultivated are occasionally in the catalog, including dwarf crested iris, native columbine, cardinal flower, and twinleaf.

brought brief moments of national attention to CHP from a paragraph mention in *Parade Magazine* that generated thousands of letters to a fleeting appearance with Willard Scott when the *Today Show* broadcasted live from Monticello on April 13. The center also hosted its first annual Open House at Tufton Farm on May 20 and, with CHP's guidance, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation published a facsimile

Often the articles dictated the choice of plants for that particular year, such as 'Bridal Veil', 'Fair Folly', 'Gloriosa', and 'Inchmery' dianthus in 1998. CHP-propagated roses from the Léonie Bell Rose Garden first became available in 1999 with 'Old Blush' China, 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', 'Blush Noisette', and the double Musk rose. As part of Monticello's 200th-anniversary commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, articles in the 2003 issue focused on the botanical and horticultural contributions of the Corps of Discovery. The plants offered that year included "mad dog" plant (*Echinacea angustifolia*), perennial blanket flower, prairie blazing star, Lewis's prairie flax, and western Jacob's ladder. Generally, such featured plants were one-time offerings, while others have continued year after year. Jefferson's favorite apples — Albemarle pippin, Esopus Spitzenburg, and Hewe's Crab — have been available nearly every season since 1995 and so have pots of Jefferson's "Chinese Ixia," *Belamcanda chinensis*, which are propagated from naturalized plants at Monticello. Jefferson was likely the first American to grow the goldenrain tree, adding a special significance to the trees grown from Monticello-collected seed that the center ships across America.

Twinleaf: Journal

Beyond its yearly news items chronicling the horticultural highlights and activities at Monticello and CHP, *Twinleaf* is a compilation of research topics specific to the foundation's preservation programs within the broader context of garden his-



By 1996 *Twinleaf* had expanded well beyond a seedlist.

tory in America. Early editions included articles describing Monticello's home nursery ("The Heart of a Garden") and Jefferson's love of trees by Peter Hatch. The creation of the botanical namesakes inspired John Fitzpatrick to detail the unique stories of the honored individuals as well as his own process of selection and investigation.

Peter Hatch brought forth his years of research on the Monticello Fruit Garden through the pages of *Twinleaf*. Beginning with his 1990 article, "Thomas Jefferson, Citizen Genet, and the 'Fuji' Apple," he followed with essays on Jefferson's favorite apples (1995), figs (1996), strawberries (1997), and peaches (1998). His study of the history of fruit culture in America

An Archive of Twinleaf Journal Articles

Most of these articles can be found on the web at: www.twinleaf.org/articles/index.html

- Monticello's Harvests HATCH, 1989
- Thomas Jefferson, Citizen Genet, and the 'Fuji' Apple HATCH, 1990
- The Heart of a Garden: A Home Nursery HATCH, 1991
- Thomas Jefferson, Planter of Trees HATCH, 1992
- Monticello's Seeds of the Past CORNETT, 1993
- Bernard McMahon: Pioneer American Gardener HATCH, 1993
- 1993: Both Garden Party and Academic Forum HATCH, 1994
- '...My wants in the article of plants' Jefferson's Botanical Perseverance CORNETT, 1995
- The Royal Family of Our 'Democratic' Fruit: Thomas Jefferson's Favorite Apples HATCH, 1995
- Naming the Flowers According to Jefferson CORNETT, 1996
- Figs: 'Vulgar' Fruit or 'Wholesome' Delicacy HATCH, 1996
- McMahon's Texas Bird Pepper: A Pretty Little Plant HATCH, 1996
- Strawberries: 'Arcadian' Dainties With a True Paradisiacal Flavor HATCH, 1997
- Pinks, Gilliflowers, & Carnations – the 'Exalted' Flowers CORNETT, 1998
- We Abound in the Luxury of the Peach HATCH, 1998
- 'Champneys Pink Cluster' Comes to Monticello CORNETT, 1999
- The Garden World of Williamsburg's John Custis HATCH, 1999
- In the Company of Gardeners – the Flower Diaries of Jefferson, Skipwith, and Faris CORNETT, 2000
- Thomas Jefferson's Favorite Vegetables HATCH, 2000
- Thomas Jefferson's 'Belles of the Day' CORNETT, 2001
- African-American Gardens at Monticello HATCH, 2001
- The Quest for 'Old-Time Roses' CORNETT, 2002
- Botany & Friendship – A Circle of Transatlantic Plant Exchange CORNETT, 2002



The popular Center for Historic Plants Garden Shop, which has operated seasonally at Monticello, will reopen in 2009 with a year-round indoor facility.

- Peculiar to the Countries They Visited: The Horticultural Potential of Lewis and Clark Plants CORNETT, 2003
- 'Public Treasure' – Thomas Jefferson and the Garden Plants of Lewis and Clark HATCH, 2003
- Encounters with America's Premier Nursery and Botanic Garden (Jefferson's visit to the William Prince Nursery) CORNETT, 2004
- Monticello's Mystery Plants HATCH, 2004
- Inspiration from the Woodlands – Jefferson's Enduring Ties to Philadelphia's Botanical Riches (William Hamilton and The Woodlands Estate) CORNETT, 2005
- 'The work is heavy' – Gardeners at Jefferson's Monticello HATCH, 2005
- Thomas Jefferson: Florist CORNETT, 2006
- Garden Weeds in the Age of Jefferson HATCH, 2006
- Seeds at Monticello: Saving, Storing, Sharing CORNETT, 2007
- Jefferson's Horticultural Neighborhood: A Rational Society of Gardeners HATCH, 2007

Peggy Cornett is the Director of the Center for Historic Plants and editor of Twinleaf. Peter Hatch is the Director of Monticello's Gardens and Grounds.

culminated in his book *The Fruits and Fruit Trees of Monticello—Thomas Jefferson and the Origins of American Horticulture*, published by the University of Virginia Press in 1997. Likewise, Hatch's articles on Jefferson's favorite vegetables, African-American Gardens at Monticello, the Monticello gardeners, and Jefferson's horticultural neighborhood contain the material, which ultimately he will incorporate in a forthcoming book on Jefferson's Kitchen Garden and vegetable gardening in early America.

Twinleaf editor Peggy Cornett's writings have covered a variety of topics, from ornamental flowers at Monticello, seed preservation, botanical nomenclature, and Jefferson's greenhouse plants. Both Cornett and Hatch have examined Jefferson's gardening friends and other significant horticultural figures, including Philadelphia seedsman and author Bernard McMahon, John Custis of Williamsburg, William Faris from Annapolis, Jean Skipwith at Prestwold, the William Prince family nursery at



Artist Gail McIntosh (left) has provided illustrations for a number of Center for Historic Plants projects. Designer Josef Beery has produced the *Twinleaf* since 1998.

Flushing, New York, William Hamilton and The Woodlands Estate outside Philadelphia, and, of course, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. CHP also produced educational products related to the Expedition. Graphic artist Josef Beery created a handsomely designed

Lewis & Clark Garden Kit, complete with seed varieties introduced by the explorers and an informative booklet. Gail McIntosh painted a second set of four botanical namesakes to honor the key individuals associated with the Expedition: Bernard McMahon (*Mahonia aquifolium*), Meriwether Lewis (*Linum lewisii*), William Clark (*Clarkia pulchella*), and



Léonie Bell Rose Garden

a new image of *Jeffersonia diphylla* in bloom.

The topic of historic roses has frequently taken center stage. Peggy Cornett's story of the William Prince Nursery (2004) documented many of the roses Jefferson purchased and cultivated at Monticello. Roses introduced in later periods also comprise a significant portion of the CHP collections at Tufton Farm and, with the addition of the Léonie Bell Rose Garden (celebrating its 10th anniversary this year), *Twinleaf* has featured several articles on the evolution of the Noisette class.

Twinleaf 10

The 1998 edition of *Twinleaf* underwent a radical transformation. CHP marked the publication's first decade by taking it to a level beyond the familiar broadside format to a 32-page magazine. Josef Beery created this fresh new look and he continues as its sole designer. The content of the publication likewise expanded and evolved. The "Directors Column"

Roses from the CHP



'Autumn Damask' Rose

'Autumn Damask' Rose

(*Rosa x damascena bifera*)

This extremely ancient rose was being cultivated in Europe by the 16th century. The fragrant petals of this rose were used for making perfume.

ITEM #603188 \$20.00



'Hermosa' Rose

'Hermosa' Rose

(*Rosa chinensis* cv.)

Most often found at abandoned home sites and in cemeteries in the deep South. It was introduced in 1840 by Marcheseau in France.

ITEM #603193 \$20.00

Roses are only offered through May, 2008 and quantities are limited. You can find out more details on the internet at: **WEB: www.twinleaf.org** or call us at: **PHONE: 800 243-1743**

became "Notes from the Center," the feature articles grew in length, and color photographs and illustrations enhanced its overall appearance and accessibility.

CHP also celebrated its 10th anniversary with its first major symposium, launching a series focused exclusively on historic plants. Beginning in 2000, the Historic Plants Symposium became a biennial event, the fifth being "Great Gardeners – Great Plants" in 2006. Reviews of each seminar appear in the subsequent volume of *Twinleaf*.

Twinleaf.org

Producing, printing, and mailing *Twinleaf* each year requires considerable time and effort as well as expense, and thus the distribution has not increased. With the

advent and development of Monticello's Web site, www.monticello.org, however, *Twinleaf* catalog found an exciting new avenue to make seeds, plants, books, and gardening products available to a vast audience. Ordering online began in 1999. Now that online shopping has become the norm, especially for many small businesses, the need to designate a large portion of *Twinleaf* to the catalog has diminished. *Twinleaf*, now serves primarily as a journal, with the lists of seeds available via the Internet or by telephone orders at the end of the magazine. The Monticello Web site, which receives over a million hits annually, has opened enormous educational opportunities for CHP, and now the center receives scores of queries and requests for information and copies of *Twinleaf* from

around the globe. In 2007, the *Twinleaf* site received nearly 28,000 unique visitors and close to 60,000 visits. The average visit length was 7 minutes 19 seconds, considered a "lifetime" for text viewing on the Web. Such statistics have impressed Monticello webmaster Chad Wollerton, who regards the people reading our articles "pretty hardcore." The more recent issues now posted as pdf versions obviously receive the most times downloaded. Articles from years past, however, continue to draw interest. The top five pre-2004 topics most viewed during 2007 included the Newtown Pippin apple, Lewis and Clark plants, Jefferson's favorite vegetables, and African-American gardens at Monticello.

Peggy Cornett, Director
Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants