



# NOTES

## *on the State of Poplar Forest*

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## TWO VIRGINIA STATESMEN

### MEET AGAIN

*Thomas Jefferson to Host Patrick Henry for  
Conversations with Jefferson on April 24*

Seven years his junior and still a student of law in Williamsburg, Thomas Jefferson witnessed Patrick Henry's defiant stand in opposition to Great Britain's Stamp Act during the May 1765 session in the House of Burgesses. Jefferson later wrote that he "heard the splendid display of Mr. Henry's talents as a popular orator. They were great, indeed: such as I have never heard from any other man. He appeared to me to speak as Homer wrote."

*Jefferson will be joined by Richard Schumann (below), who has portrayed Henry at Colonial Williamsburg for the past fifteen years.*

Enjoy a riveting discussion as these two Virginia-born patriots meet again at Poplar Forest on April 24, 2010.

Both Jefferson and Henry served as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, delegates to the Virginia House of Burgesses, and as delegates to the Continental Congress. Both men championed the colonists' rights as English citizens: Henry, vocally in fiery and passionate language and Jefferson, on paper, writing with elegance and succinctness.

They were both symbols of the American fight for liberty, and began as close collaborators, together drafting the "Proclamation for a day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer" in 1774. However, Jefferson and Henry began to differ in opinions about central government versus states'

*(continued on page 2)*

*"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend."*

**Thomas Jefferson, 1800**



*(continued from page 1)*

rights, the relationship between church and state, and what became known as Federalist versus Anti-Federalist politics.

Join what promises to be an exciting conversation! Meeting again more than 200 years later, Jefferson and Henry will debate their political disagreements and discuss the pivotal roles they each played in the early years of the new American democracy.

Poplar Forest will again present two performances of *Conversations with Thomas Jefferson*. Tickets can be purchased now by calling the Museum Shop at (434) 534-8120 or online at [www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org).

*“It is impossible for my friends ever to render me so acceptable a favor, as by communicating to me, without reserve, facts and opinions. I have none of that sort of self-love which winces at it; indeed, both self-love and the desire to do what is best strongly invite unreserved communication.”*

**Thomas Jefferson to Wilson C. Nicholas, 1807**



David Duncan

*Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson appears courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.*

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THOMAS JEFFERSON

*April 24th*

### Matinee

Reception at 1:30 p.m.

Performance at 2:15 p.m.

Tickets include afternoon tea and performance. House tours not included for matinee ticket holders, but visitors may purchase a house tour at a reduced rate of \$7.00 (adults) and \$1.00 (youth.)

Advance: \$24.00 Adult / \$12.00 Youth (6-16)

At the Door: \$28.00 Adult / \$14.00 Youth (6-16)

### Evening

Wine and hors d'oeuvre reception at 7:00 p.m.

Performance at 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy the opportunity to mingle with Jefferson and Henry during a wine reception on the lawn. Stationed tours of the house are included with evening tickets.

Advance: \$30.00 Adult / \$12.00 Youth (6-16)

At the Door: \$35.00 Adult / \$14.00 Youth (6-16)

# LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

There is much to celebrate as Poplar Forest enters its next 200 years of history. This is the year the restoration craftsmen begin reconstructing the woodwork inside Jefferson's house— and we have the opportunity to move into a new dimension of Poplar Forest, the landscape Thomas Jefferson sculpted for his retreat.



200 years ago this spring Jefferson made the first of

his three 1810 visits, settling into his pattern of regular sojourns to his Bedford County retreat. This year the carpenters are setting up their workshop in the house where they will handcraft the wood detailing, just as Jefferson's carpenters did when they created the original woodwork. The first task is door frames.

Outside, the archaeologists' goal is to search for the evidence to guide the re-planting of the allee of trees on the west side of the

house that will balance the wing of offices on the east. This first step in the three-year Phase I of landscape restoration is to be followed in 2011-12 by excavation and restoration of Jefferson's plantings at the front of the house.

It promises to be another unique year to witness this retreat re-emerging, as we uncover long-missing new features and work to return them to their original form. Poplar Forest's milestones last year attracted major media stories— including features in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Wall Street Journal*— that brought 30,000 visitors to Jefferson's retreat, a 50%

increase in people both discovering Jefferson's retreat and revisiting to follow the progress.

Spring also begins with a new occasion— an opportunity to walk the grounds with Poplar Forest's chief archaeologist and hear firsthand all that we have learned so far about Jefferson's vision for his most personal landscape— on Garden Day, April 20th, during Virginia's annual Historic Garden Week.

Join us at Thomas Jefferson's retreat this year!

**Lynn A. Beebe**  
President

*“I continue in the enjoyment of good health, take much exercise, and make frequent journeys to Bedford, the only journies I now take, or ever expect to take.”*

**Thomas Jefferson to John Barnes**  
January 10, 1811

# 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 1**

**Poplar Forest Opens for the Season**

**April 14**

**Jefferson's Birthday Celebration**

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Celebrate the anniversary of Jefferson's birth on April 13, 1743. Cake served!

**April 20**

**Virginia Garden Week Talk and Tour:  
Restoring Jefferson's Landscape**



Open for house and grounds tours. Special pre-restoration landscape tours led by Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology

and Landscapes at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Reduced admission price and Museum Shop discount with Lynchburg Garden Day ticket. Reservations required.

**April 24**

**Conversations with Thomas Jefferson**

Join in conversation as President Jefferson hosts his colleague Patrick Henry. Afternoon tea and matinee at 2:15 p.m. (reception at 1:30); Evening performance at 8:00 p.m. (wine reception and tours at 7:00).

**May 15**

**Architectural Restoration Talk and Tour**

11:00 am and 2:00 p.m. Guided tour of Jefferson's retreat with Director of Architectural Restoration, Travis McDonald, followed by slide lecture. Reservations required.



Richard and Kimberly Gellina

**July 4**

**Independence Day Celebration**

11:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Musical performances, dancing, historical entertainment, games, living history demonstrations, storytelling and an evocative reading of the Declaration of Independence. \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free.

**September 25**

**Smithsonian Museum Day**

Free admission with Smithsonian Museum Day Card. Hands-on-History open. Hearth-cooking demonstrations in the kitchen.

**October 9**

**Archaeology Open House**

Tours at 11:15 a.m., 12:15, 1:15 and 2:15 p.m. Archaeologists share their latest discoveries at the current archaeological site with a visit to the archaeology lab.



Meredith Khan

### November 20

#### Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Celebrate Jefferson's passion for wine, featuring Virginia wineries, crafts, food vendors and more.

### November 28

#### Holiday Tours

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special tours of Poplar Forest that feature holiday traditions in the early 19th-century. Hot apple cider and cookies in the Museum Shop.

Call (434) 534-8120 for tickets or (434) 525-1806 for more information. All events subject to change. Visit [www.poplarforest.org/events](http://www.poplarforest.org/events) for additional events and updates.

## LIVES OF CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY

### *Learning Opportunities at Poplar Forest*

#### July 12-16

#### Archaeology, Restoration and History Summer Kids Camp

Examine primary documents, join with archaeologists to map out dig sites, sift, wash and catalogue artifacts, and take part in the restoration process by making and laying bricks, creating mortar and plastering walls using the same materials used 200 years ago. For rising 4th and 5th graders.



The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest

#### May 30 – June 12

#### Architectural Restoration Field School

Since 1990, 10 to 12 students each year, under the direction of the Director of Architectural Restoration, receive multi-disciplinary training during an intensive 14-day program that emphasizes hands-on opportunities and instills a working knowledge of the rich complexity of details and issues found in the restoration of historic properties.

#### June 6 – July 9

#### Annual Summer Field School in Historical Archaeology

Receiving credit from the University of Virginia, field school students work with archaeologists 40-hours a week at the excavation site and in the archaeology laboratory. The field school provides a hands-on experience with a solid foundation in current methods and theories of historical archaeology.

# THOMAS JEFFERSON'S ORNAMENTAL PLANT NURSERY LOCATED

“We are now confident that we have located Jefferson’s plant nursery,” said Poplar Forest’s Director of Archaeology, Jack A. Gary, announcing the conclusion of the multi-year investigation involving excavation plus intensive laboratory analysis at the Universities of Massachusetts and Tennessee.



The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest

The plant nursery is located in an area approximately 400 yards southeast of the main house. It lies adjacent to this cobblestone surface (above) that may be related to Jefferson’s stables.



Fragments of this bowl that fit together were found separately at the nursery site and in ornamental planting holes around the house.

Preliminary testing in Jefferson’s 61-acre curtilage had first tipped off archeologists that this location had potential. When excavating began, it soon became clear this was a heavily-used, artifact-rich area, seemingly a complex of supporting structures and activity spaces. However, exactly what they had found was elusive— until the team found a break-through clue suggesting the hypothesis that part of this site might be the nursery.

That first clue was the discovery that small puzzle pieces of broken ceramics found at the site pieced together with fragments of the very same ceramic bowl, which had been unearthed in the planting holes for ornamental plants near the house. “Crossmends” like this were also found between

the site and the “wing of offices” where Jefferson’s kitchen was located, suggesting that trash was deliberately dumped in the nursery to help break up the piedmont clay. The soils at the site also appeared to match the soils in the planting holes. Another find was a stone-lined drain that might have carried water to and away from plants, and might also have served a nearby building— such as one of the stables adjacent to the nursery— to allow nutrient-rich manure run-off to reach the plants.

Chemical analysis of soils and pollen analysis, supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, have corroborated the nursery hypothesis. The soils have higher levels of certain chemicals found in highly organic material: phosphorous which indicates manure, and certain heavy metals deposited in soil as plants decay. Pollen analysis shows a spike in some types

**More in-depth information about these excavations and analyses can be accessed through the Archaeology section of the Poplar Forest website. Listen to a series of podcasts and explore an interactive online exhibit that allows visitors to see artifacts, features, and more detailed information about the nursery.**



Archaeologists have determined that this cobbled surface was a stone drain that may have carried water to the nursery from the stables and then drained excess water from the nursery.

of ornamental plants that were in the nursery, such as willow.

Documentary records indicate that sometime prior to 1811, Jefferson had a nursery established for the many plants he envisioned as part of his unique retreat landscape. From 1811 to 1819, the nursery was filled with hundreds of young trees—including willows, aspens, poplars, and paper mulberry trees.

Archaeologists excavated 98 5-foot square units and uncovered more than 30,000 artifacts. Determining the site of the nursery provides incredibly accurate information about historic

gardening practices at Poplar Forest, and advances the search for understanding how Jefferson organized his retreat as he carved his ideal personal landscape from a vernacular piedmont plantation.

Excavating in recent months has focused on locating the stables, vegetable garden, and slave quarter documented to have been adjacent to the nursery. The archaeology team has uncovered a large cobblestone surface that may be associated with the stables, a layer of building debris, and a possible “slot trench” for a fence. Further research is needed to locate the complex surrounding the nursery.

*“It is now among my most fervent longings to be on my farm, which, with a garden and fruitery, will constitute my principal occupation in retirement.”*

**Thomas Jefferson to Robert R. Livingston, 1808**

# VISITORS TO BEGIN EXPLORING VIRTUAL POPLAR FOREST LANDSCAPE

**P**hase I of landscape restoration kicks off this spring with an exciting step— the creation of the first-ever, three-dimensional, digital rendering of the ornamental landscape Jefferson designed surrounding his house.

Thanks to a grant from Verizon, Poplar Forest is partnering with the Center for the Electronic Reconstruction of Historical and Archaeological Sites (CERHAS) at the University of Cincinnati to create a virtual model of the landscape inside Jefferson's circular road, based on what we have learned so far through archaeology. Visitors will be able to see what that landscape was like as though they were walking through it, or flying over it.

A virtual landscape will make it possible to see Jefferson's landscape long before physical restoration can be accomplished. This first step of virtually rendering the area adjacent to the house will be available in late spring via Poplar Forest's website and on-site computers.

Funds are being sought for the second phase of digitization— an interactive feature that will allow



*This is a computer model of the house as it will be depicted in Poplar Forest's virtual world. In Phase II of the project, computer models of plants and trees will be created that can be moved around the landscape.*

visitors to digitally move plants around, starting with the trees in Jefferson's ornamental "clumps" in front of the house. This feature will enable the public to participate in figuring out what the original landscape looked like and how to restore it. This process includes thinking about the evidence from documents and archaeology, what we know vs. what we don't know, which gardening manuals were in Jefferson's library, and the landscape ideas and practices of the time.

Future phases will make it possible to see the way Jefferson changed his landscape at different times, and what the plantation landscape of fields, barns, and slave quarters looked like.

Creating this educational tool provides a dynamic way for both onsite and online visitors to understand and participate in the process that will be happening onsite as we focus our research-and-restoration work on the first part of Jefferson's landscape in 2010-12.



# JOIN

## THE THOMAS JEFFERSON CIRCLE

*Make a Planned Gift to Poplar Forest*

The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest



*Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Taylor III have supported Poplar Forest consistently for 24 years and have included a provision for Mr. Jefferson's retreat in their estate plans. "We are so interested in Mr. Jefferson and his life here. We want to continue to be part of his legacy."*

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THE THOMAS JEFFERSON CIRCLE recognizes all donors to Poplar Forest who have made bequest provisions or other deferred and/or income producing gifts in support of Mr. Jefferson's legacy at Poplar Forest. If you have included Poplar Forest in your estate plans or if you would like to receive more information about joining the Thomas Jefferson Circle, please email [development@poplarforest.org](mailto:development@poplarforest.org) or call (434) 534-8126.

The Board of Directors of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest invites members of the Thomas Jefferson Circle to join members of the President's Society for a black tie dinner in the house April 23, 2010.

### *Remembering Louis Booth*

Poplar Forest has always relied on the generous and thoughtful support of donors who have chosen to contribute to Mr. Jefferson's retreat through planned gifts. Louis S. Booth was one of those donors. A retired architect, he volunteered as a docent at Poplar Forest from 1991 until he led his last tour in 1998 at the age of 89. He is remembered as someone who epitomized our volunteers' spirit, bringing enthusiasm, gentility, and grace to the visitors' experience. Booth made his first planned gift to Poplar Forest in the form of a gift annuity. He also included Poplar Forest in his will. His gifts have provided critical funding for the ongoing restoration of the elegant interior of the house.

*"Private charities, as well as contributions to public purposes in proportion to every one's circumstances, are certainly among the duties we owe to society."*

**Thomas Jefferson to Charles Christian, 1810**



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: TWENTY-SIX YEARS

*of supporting Poplar Forest*



The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest

Amanda Smith, Associate Director of Development, visited Mrs. Kelley in Roanoke and presented her with a Poplar Forest medallion in January 2010 to commemorate twenty-six consecutive years of giving to Jefferson's retreat.

Margaret Kelley has always loved history. Though she and her husband Carl lived in Maryland, they made many trips to Virginia as they visited family and attended Rotary functions. At one particular Rotary meeting, Margaret and Carl heard a presentation about Poplar Forest and they were immediately interested. They shared a strong desire to make sure that Thomas Jefferson's retreat home would be preserved and shared with others who also had a passion for history and architecture. Though Mrs. Kelly is not able to visit Jefferson's retreat as much as she used to, her passion for restoration and education is clearly evident through her years of steadfast financial support. She now lives in Roanoke, Virginia and continues to support Poplar Forest every year.

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### THOMAS JEFFERSON

*Inspiration for Living Lives  
of Curiosity and Creativity*

The mission of the private, non-profit Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest is to preserve Thomas Jefferson's retreat and enable it to serve future generations as an innovative, educational catalyst inspiring insight into the past, present and future.

Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, a National Historic Landmark, is open for tours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Monday, April through November (except for Thanksgiving Day.) Call (434) 525-1806 or go to [www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org) to plan your visit.

#### **Update your information**

We would like to stay in touch with you! Update your information to receive monthly email updates from Poplar Forest. Please send your email address to [development@poplarforest.org](mailto:development@poplarforest.org) or sign up for the newsletter on the website at [www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org).

#### **Feedback**

Anna Bentson, Director of Public Relations & Marketing  
(434) 534-8116 or [anna@poplarforest.org](mailto:anna@poplarforest.org)

## Dear Friends of Poplar Forest,



Heartfelt thanks to each of you who contributed to Poplar Forest from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. Because of you, we celebrated a banner anniversary year.

Many of you were among the more than 30,000 visitors, the largest number ever, who enjoyed tours and programs inspired by Mr. Jefferson's interests and passions. You saw the exterior of his retreat home completed, with its wing of offices restored, and the curtilage fence erected. You watched archaeological teams uncover Jefferson's plant nursery and begin planning for landscape restoration.

Poplar Forest's addition to the U.S. nomination list to become a World Heritage site is well-deserved. It is a treasure today and will be for generations to come.

Thank you so very much for your support.

Judith Greer Schulz  
Chairman of the Board

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*“I find friendship to be like wine, raw when new, ripened with age, the true old man’s milk and restorative cordial.”*

**Thomas Jefferson, age 69, to Benjamin Rush**  
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*“We hold these truths to be self evident,  
 that all men are created equal, that they  
 are endowed by their Creator with certain  
 inalienable Rights, that among these are  
 Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

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**We gratefully acknowledge those  
 below whose gifts of goods and/  
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**Our deepest appreciation to individuals and  
 organizations who volunteered their time  
 and services during the 200th anniversary  
 year at Poplar Forest.**

**We have taken great care to present  
 an accurate and complete listing of  
 all of our supporters from January 1 –  
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A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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## GENEROSITY

# GIFT OF FRENCH CANDLESTICKS

Joseph E. Lacey, Jr., a Friend of Poplar Forest, has made it possible for a pair of brass French candlesticks to return to Poplar Forest.

The candlesticks, identified as made in France in the late 18th-century, are believed to have been purchased by Jefferson when he resided in Paris, and shipped to Virginia when Jefferson returned upon completion of his service as Minister to France. According to the Cobbs/Hutter family's oral history, they were among the furnishings at Poplar Forest that remained in the house when the family purchased the property from Jefferson's grandson in 1828.

In 1934 Mr. Lacey's father, Joseph E. Lacey, Sr., acquired the by-then severely blackened brass candlesticks from the Hutter family when Mr. Lacey, then a child, accompanied his father on a visit to Poplar Forest.

"The candlesticks are now mine, and ... I can do what I wish with them. What I wish is to return them to Poplar Forest," Mr. Lacey said when presenting the candlesticks to the stewards of Poplar Forest.

"We are thrilled to receive this exciting and generous gift," said Lynn A. Beebe, Poplar Forest's President.

*The brass candlesticks, once blackened with age, have been restored to their original luster.*

