



Volume #22

Winter 2025

Friends of Hofwyl–Broadfield Plantation Newsletter

**Located at 5556 US Hwy 17N
Near the intersection of US17 and GA99 Phone 912-264-7333**

The historic site is open Tuesday-Sunday with the tour of the historic house beginning on the hour. If you have any questions about visiting, please call the office staff at 912-264-7333. This park is maintained by the state of Georgia. Bill Giles, Site Manager, can be reached at bill.giles@dnr.ga.gov.

January -March 2025 Camellia Season see the Camellias in bloom.

February 8, 2025 10:00 a.m. Planning your Spring Vegetable Garden

February 9, 2025 2:00 p.m. Super Museum Sunday, McIntosh Ring Shouters

March 18-April 20 Easter Egg Hunt Daily when park is open

April 5, 2025 9a.m. to 3p.m. Plein Air Paint outside at the park

Faye Cowart Retires on October 31, 2024

The Friends of Hofwyl– Broadfield Plantation and the Department of Natural Resources honor her service.



Bill Giles presented Faye with a shadow box containing the flag that flew over the park on her last day and the patch from her uniform and pins and awards that she had earned through the years.

Trustee Gordon Strother, said, “Faye Cowart has been a great asset.”

Jean Earle McConnell said of Faye,

“Her care and respect for the site and all it stands for, we don’t often find anymore.”

She spent her 31 years at Hofwyl-Broadfield gathering information from descendants of both the slave families and the Dents and sharing her knowledge with the public. She will be missed on a daily basis, but she promises to visit and help out as she can.

We look forward to her visits.



Albert Fendig jr presented Faye Cowart with a painting of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation for her retirement.



Bryan Gray, DNR Region 6 Manager, joins Bill Giles in honoring Faye.





**Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site is awarded for
Cultural Resources Enhancements in the park.**

This award was given at the DNR Manager's Conference in August 2024

The award was earned by Bill Giles for his excellent leadership and management of our park.

Improving Georgia's natural habitats

Protecting an historic structure

Leading outstanding ranger programs

Managing renovation projects

Excellence in customer service

Steve Lanter, Pres. of the Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield congratulates Bill.

Hofwyl-Broadfield Historic Site manager Bill Giles and his team have worked diligently to tell a more complete story of the site's history, working closely with the DNR's Cultural and Interpretive Resources Unit. An African-American cemetery on the property had become overgrown to the point of no easy access, allowing for illegal dumping. Today, the understory vegetation has been removed, graves have been identified and marked, and the site is protected by a fence.





The Hofwyl-Broadfield Camellias Have Some New Friends!

Fourteen People have said “yes” to be Friends of the Camellias. They are members of the Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, Glynn County Master Gardeners, Visiting Volunteers, and Magnolia Garden Club. The friends will be challenged to think of ways to get our community to come out to see our 60 trees in bloom during January and February each year. They will work to keep the grounds clear around the trees, fertilize the trees, and plan activities to encourage folks to come out during the Camellia Bloom Season.



Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantations Hosts
A Presentation on
Planning Your Spring Vegetable Garden
February 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
With Master Gardener Linda Hlozansky



Super Museum Sunday

February 9, 2025

Free Admission to all the Georgia State Parks!!

McIntosh Shouters perform at 2 o'clock



Easter Scavenger Hunt
Dates March 18-April 20, 2025
Everyday the park is open

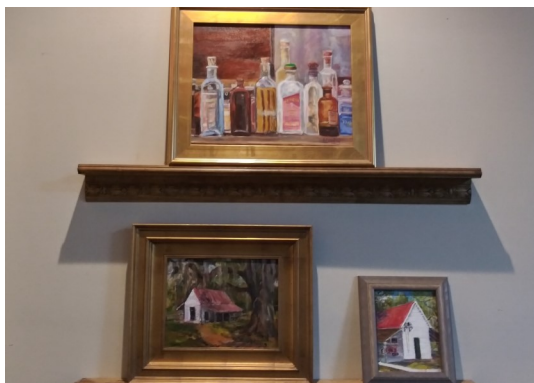


Come out to the park for Family Fun this Spring.



**Our Annual Plein Air Event will be April 5th 2025 from 9-3 at
Hofwyl-Broadfield**

It's not called "Wet Paint Sale" without reason. It is magical to see the artists spread all over the plantation grounds and even more exciting to watch art being made with the opportunity to buy a favorite right off the easel! This year we have a special opportunity to see the Plein Art displayed throughout March and April at A Moveable Feast Restaurant. Plan to come savor "Good Things to Eat in or Take Away" while enjoying a collection of paintings by area artists!



Clermont Lee (1914-2006)

Clermont Lee, one of the earliest women active in landscape architecture in Georgia, was known as the foremost expert in recreating historic landscapes in mid-twentieth-century [Savannah](#). Her work was meticulously researched, with a particular focus on formal English and American gardens of the antebellum period. Lee was also responsible for working to found the Georgia State Board of Landscape Architects, a licensing board for landscape architects across the state. Lee was one of the first female landscape architects registered in Georgia.

Clermont Huger Lee was born in Savannah in 1914. After schooling in Savannah and Charleston, South Carolina, she attended Barnard College in New York City before transferring to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she eventually decided to major in landscape architecture. After completing her undergraduate degree, she attended the Smith College Graduate School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (formerly the Cambridge School), near Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, obtaining a master's of landscape architecture degree in 1939. Though Harvard was, at this time, the center for forward-thinking Bauhaus architecture, Lee preferred traditional, less severe landscape styles.

During the [Great Depression](#), Lee returned to Savannah to become an assistant to T. M. Baumgardner, a landscape architect associated with the [Sea Island Company](#). While working there, she planned landscape designs and supervised planting operations for many federal housing projects in Savannah and [Brunswick](#).

Her interest in historic gardens began in the 1940s, when, at the request of a family friend, she drew plans for a small garden at the [Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation](#) in Brunswick. In 1944 she made measured drawings of ten Victorian gardens in Savannah for Laura Bell and the [Georgia Historical Society](#). She later researched antebellum plantings to develop a planting plan for the formal garden of the Andrew Low home for the Georgia Chapter of the Colonial Dames of America. In 1949 Lee left the Sea Island Company to set up her own practice, thereby becoming the first female professional landscape architect in private practice in Savannah.

In the early 1950s Lee began her long involvement in historic landscapes. In addition to her work on the gardens of the Owens-Thomas House on Oglethorpe Square in Savannah, her new design and planting plans for historic buildings in the city included the birthplace of [Juliette Gordon Low](#), the Andrew Low House, and the Green-Meldrim mansion. Outside the confines of Savannah, she consulted on the [Chief Vann residence](#) and the New Echota [Cherokee](#) capital in north Georgia for the [Georgia Historical Commission](#).

From 1951 to 1972 Lee worked with [Mills B. Lane Jr.](#), the president of the Citizens and Southern Bank, and his wife to develop landscapes for renovated homes in the northeast section of Savannah. She also worked with the Lanes to develop plans for the renovation of four Savannah squares: Madison, Troup, Warren, and Washington. Her designs to preserve the sanctity of the squares brought her into conflict with the city, which wanted drive-through lanes for emergency crews and buses crossing the middle of all squares. To address the problem of the turning radius required by the buses, the city adopted Lee's suggestion that the curves of entry into the squares be rounded. In addition, some utility poles and concrete walks were removed from the squares. Lee's strong, simple designs used variations in materials and ground forms to give each square a special character.

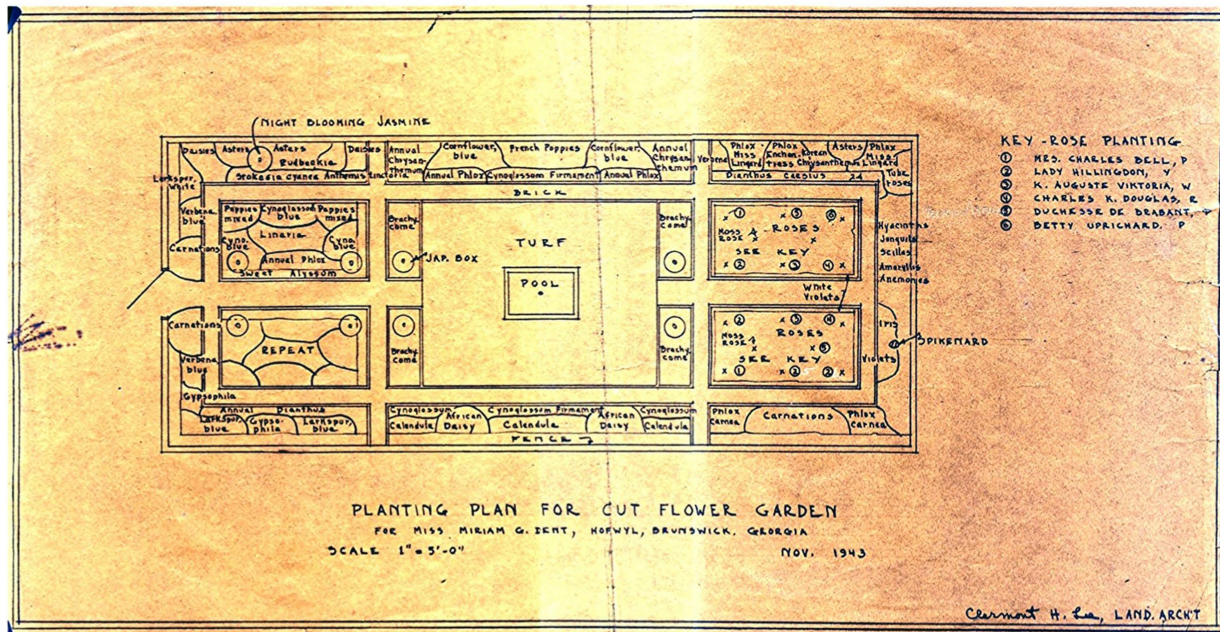
In addition to becoming one of the few women in landscape architecture in Georgia, Lee also worked for recognition of her profession. When the [American Society of Landscape Architects](#) was founded in 1899, only one woman, Beatrix Farrand, from New York, was among its founding members. Lee joined the ASLA in 1950 and later worked in conjunction with Hubert Owens, head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the [University of Georgia](#), to establish the Georgia State Board of Landscape Architects. The first four landscape architects to be registered included Owens and Lee. Lee served on the Georgia board for three years.

Clermont Lee not only made history for women in landscape architecture but also had a lasting impact on the quality of Savannah's historically designed landscape environment. She died in Savannah on June 14, 2006.

Dolder, Ced. "Clermont Lee." New Georgia Encyclopedia, last modified May 8, 2017.
<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/clermont-lee-1914-2006/>



Garden in Savannah
designed by Clermont
Lee.



This is the garden plan that Clermont Lee drew for Miriam Dent in 1943. We do not know if the plan was ever implemented. This is evidence that the Dent ladies knew her. The image above says, Planting Plan for Cut Flower Garden for Miss Miriam C. Dent , Hofwyl, Brunswick, Georgia, Nov. 1943



Clermont Lee's mother is Clermont Huger, who is a good friend of Miriam and Ophelia. Clermont Huger is far right in the picture and Miriam is holding the reins. This is in 1899 and Miriam has picked everyone up from the railroad at Sterling, bringing them to Hofwyl for a house party which lasted from 12/27 to 12/31 in 1899.