



# News

*The oldest statewide historic preservation organization in Tennessee*

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES

SPRING/SUMMER 2010



## President's Message

*by Bob Notestine, President*

As I write this column for inclusion in the Spring/Summer 2010 newsletter, I want to express thanks to all those members of the APTA who have spent countless (and unpaid) hours working for the preservation of historic properties and the culture of this state. Over the last two years, it has dawned on me that APTA members are also very likely to be members of other historic and preservation organizations in this state, region and on a national scope. When I meet or speak with officers of other organizations I quickly learn that we have many common members. I think, especially, in the past that some folks might not see this is as a positive thing. However, in this day and age, I believe this is positive for our members and our organization as the spread of ideas is helping to invigorate the APTA. In recent months, our executive director, Elliott McNeil, has created a Facebook site for the APTA that helps to attract attention and information from people and organizations interested in historic preservation. I have to admit that when Elliott brought this up I was skeptical. Being a computer age "Neanderthal" I thought this site was just used to communicate with friends. Elliott convinced me that it is a great tool for networking and communication with peers. Look at the Facebook page for the APTA. You will be amazed at the information available on the site and the many communications from friends of the APTA.

We are also making constant efforts to update our website and improve communication with the central office. We have received a number of new associate memberships this year, and despite the tough economy we have fared better financially than expected while reducing costs. If you ever are near Belle Meade Plantation on a weekday morning, stop by and see Elliott, as the office has been greatly improved at almost no cost due to donations of materials and services, especially by the staff at the plantation. I have tried to promote the theme that the APTA wants not only to be a preservation organization but also a preservation "player" in helping, by outward actions, to promote and participate in preservation in this state. I also have tried to promote the

theme that the state organization needs to provide support to the chapters that are our lifeblood. I believe the APTA has improved in these areas, but improvement needs to continue.

I need your help in two areas: (1) Spread the word about the APTA. Let people know about our sites, the Facebook page, the website, the marking program. Help me "talk up" the APTA to others to help our organization grow in influence; and (2) try to get others to join as chapter members where we have chapters and associate members where we do not. Overall membership has declined in recent years and I would like to see this organization have at least 1,000 new members by the 2012 membership meeting. With your support, we are postured to make great strides in the next few years. I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your past support and kindness to me. I have been nominated for another two-year term as President and I gave serious thought about not serving again due to my heavy work schedule and family obligations. However, I am gratified by your confidence in me and really did not want to leave some of our programs "half done." I will do my utmost to serve the APTA to the best of my ability for the next two years. Thanks again for your positive support.

## Be Sure to Renew

**Have you renewed your APTA membership? Our properties depend on the generosity of our members for support, and in return they offer their communities and visitors to our state a chance to relive Tennessee history. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today. So many fun and interesting events are happening, you don't want to miss them. The next time you renew your APTA membership, please remember to include your email address.**

Visit us at [www.theapta.org](http://www.theapta.org)

## Board of Directors 2010

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**Gwen Stidman**, Hendersonville



## Executive Director's Message

by Elliott McNiel, CAE, Executive Director

In my first letter to the membership I thought I might give you some insight into exactly who has been answering your phone calls since January, "APTA, this is Elliott McNiel."

I have been in association management over 20 years and started my own association management firm Association Executives, LLC in 1997. Through Association Executives, LLC, I have represented a diverse list of clients. Serving as Executive Director for eight associations ranging in size from a 17-member trade association to a 1,500-member nonprofit association. I am a member of the American Society of Association Executives and the Tennessee Society of Association Executives. In 2004 I was awarded the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the American Society of Association Executives. The CAE program, which has stood as a mark of excellence for 40 years, is designed to elevate professional standards, enhance individual performance, and designate association professionals who demonstrate the knowledge essential to the practice of association management.

Although I have appreciated the mission of all my nonprofit clients, as I told Bob Notestine when I applied for this position, the time has come in my life when I want to provide my expertise to a nonprofit organization that supports something I truly love. I am a native Tennessean and although I have lived in different places both in the United States and abroad, Tennessee is and always will be home. It is a beautiful and friendly state with a rich history. The APTA gives me the opportunity to become more involved in that history. Since taking this position I have seen so many people working diligently to support and promote the APTA properties. They give unselfishly of their time to serve on boards, organize events, lead tours and take care of the day-to-day business of running a house museum. It is amazing, and I hope all Tennesseans and visitors to our state are as grateful to them as I am. I am thoroughly enjoying my new position as your Executive Director and I encourage all members to call on me at anytime. I am here for you and hope to be here for many years to come.

## We're On Facebook and We're Going Digital!

APTA has entered the social networking arena with its first Facebook page. Information on all the properties along with photos, regular updates on chapter events and other comments on historical happenings can be found on the page. To date we have drawn 66 fans.



With the help of Silver Pear Tree Consulting, APTA now has a web-based email marketing platform that will allow us to communicate more effectively with current and potential members. Our first foray into this type of mass electronic communication came with the invitation to the annual meeting. Electronic invitations were sent to members, elected officials in the cities where we have properties, and others interested Tennessee history. The APTA newsletter will also go out electronically, letting more Tennesseans know that APTA is alive and well and its members are working diligently to promote and encourage active participation in the preservation of Tennessee's rich historic, cultural, architectural, and archeological heritage.

However, this doesn't mean that we're going paperless quite yet. Invitations to the annual meeting and the newsletter will still be sent through the mail to our members as well as to other historical organizations around the state. But remember, next time you renew your membership, please include your email address.

## KNOX COUNTY CHAPTER

Ramsey House Plantation offered a series of workshops this spring including Heirloom Gardening, Antique Restoration, and Chair Caning.



The **Heirloom Gardening workshop** held February 27 featured nationally renowned heirloom gardener John Coykendall, along with historic garden designer Terumi Saito Watson. Coykendall displayed many varieties of heirloom vegetable seeds while he discussed maintaining seed purity in the garden as well as how to save seeds. Watson also discussed heirloom landscaping with historic plants. Heirloom seeds are sold year-round in the Swan Shop at Ramsey House.



*Heirloom Gardening Workshop*

The second workshop, **Antique Restoration**, was held on March 6 and was instructed by James Hooper of Furniture Artistry ([www.FurnitureArtistryTN.com](http://www.FurnitureArtistryTN.com)). Hooper has over 34 years' experience in antique restoration and custom furniture building, and has been Conservator of Ramsey House for many years. The six attendees learned to "read" an antique, and how to restore and refurnish them.



*Chair Caning Workshop*

The most popular of the workshops was the three-day **Chair Bottom Caning workshop** held March 23-25. This workshop featured hand-lace caning and splint bottom weaving. Instructed by Bonnie Sheeley of the UT Extension office, participants had the opportunity to bring and cane a chair bottom.

## BUCHANAN LOG HOUSE CHAPTER

The volunteers at the Buchanan Log House have been very busy seeking out shareholders for their Master Plan for the Buchanan Log House, Cemetery and the Addison Museum. In February, the Nashville District Corps of Engineers Chief of Planning, Patty Coffey, and members of her Planning Branch staff met with Vice President **Lu Whitworth** and Director **Joe Cathey** to discuss federal authorization and funding through the Army Corps' various environmental and cultural resources programs. The meeting was especially productive with the Army Corps offering assistance in pursuing the Master Planning effort.

Later that same month, several members of the Buchanan Log House Board, including President **Kathy Blums**, Vice President **Lu Whitworth**, Treasurer **Bill Edwards**, Ways & Means Chair **Ron Sharpe**, Directors **Bob Allen** and **Joan Williams**, and Historian **Gloria McAbee**, hosted a briefing of District Councilmen Bruce Stanley; Phil Claiborne; Jim Gotto; Councilman-at-Large Tim Garrett; Mary Adair, a staff member for Representative Ben West; Elliott McNeil, Executive Director APTA; Ms. Jan Cane; Dr. Mark Cheatham; Cumberland University and others to discuss the Master Planning process and other ongoing Buchanan Log House projects and programs. We very much appreciate the support of our elected officials who will be so important in securing Master Plan funding.

### *Old Tollgate No. 2*

At the corner of Stewart's Ferry Pike and Lebanon Pike in Davidson County stood the Old Tollgate No. 2 for the Nashville to Lebanon Road. The location's use as a tollgate between Nashville and Lebanon dates back to the 1880s. James Wills and his wife, Lilly Buchanan Wills, built a house adjacent to that location between 1792 and 1796. Lilly was the sister of James Buchanan.

Last December the house was dedicated with an APTA marker. The Buchanan Log House Chapter, APTA and others have expressed an interest in preserving this location as the site of Toll Gate No. 2. Recently, the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce became the coordinator to work with other interested organizations in developing this parcel of land. Meetings have been held with representatives from the Gateway Project, the Evening Exchange Club of Donelson-Hermitage, the Buchanan Log House, APTA, Councilman Phil Claiborne, Councilman Bruce Stanley as well as local business people who are interested in the project. Preliminary work on clearing the property has begun. Many more details are yet to be worked out, but soon there will be a beautifully landscaped plot at the intersection for all to enjoy.

## ARLINGTON CHAPTER

In April, the Arlington Chapter celebrated spring by showcasing local potter **Suzanne Simson**, a student at the University at Memphis, at the museum. Suzanne provided demonstrations of her functional pottery as well as showed examples from her collection. Suzanne calls working with pottery, "therapeutic and de-stressing." "Pottery is not my hobby, it is my passion," says Suzanne.

Also in April, the **Historic Post Office** highlighted the history of Arlington, and the **Blacksmith Shop** featured demonstrations of the art of blacksmithing. Visitors also had the opportunity to peek inside the historic log cabin.

This year's **Chapter Annual Membership Breakfast**, which will be held in Depot Square by the Historic Post Office and the Log Cabin, will take place in June.

## HAMBLEN COUNTY CHAPTER

The **Crockett Tavern Museum** will celebrate Davy Crockett's 224th birthday on **August 14** with a big celebration on the lawn of the museum. There will be activities to keep the little ones occupied, refreshments and tours of the museum. The celebration is open to all at no charge.

**October 23-24** you'll find the Crockett Tavern Museum folks hosting a booth at Mountain Makin's at the historic Rose Center in Morristown. At the event there will be crafts, folklore, food, music, storytelling, dancing, authors and more.

## HARDEMAN COUNTY CHAPTER

The Hardeman County APTA **Spring Home Tour** will be held May 15. This year the tour will be a "**Tasting-Kitchen & Home Tour**," featuring the chapter's new cookbook, "The Sampler II." The tour of six homes and sites will include The Pillars, Magnolia Manor, McNeal Place, Ingram Hall and Episcopal Church, Paul Nelms Home and the Crawford Home. Each site will feature delicious culinary treats and recipes from a category in the cookbook. We promise you will be delighted and won't go home hungry.

Tickets for the tour are \$20. Discounts are available for senior citizens and groups of 10 or more. Cookbooks will be offered for sale with a 10% discount with the purchase of a ticket. Tickets are available at The Pillars on the day of the tour or by calling 731.518.714. For more information, please visit the chapter website at [www.thepillars.org](http://www.thepillars.org).

## SHELBY COUNTY CHAPTER

### *The Memphis Chapter of APTA Awarded 2010 Preservation Cup*

**Victorian Village Incorporated**, a community development corporation that exists to create a vibrant and diverse urban neighborhood, has awarded the 2010 Preservation Cup to the Memphis Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA) in recognition of their fifty-year effort in this historic 19th century neighborhood. Scott Blake, the executive director for VVI, noted, "This preservation group, founded in 1951, has been the leading force in telling our heritage story in downtown Memphis. They have been the Keepers of the flame in some of our darkest days of 'urban renewal' in the 60s and 70s. For the last five years the Woodruff-Fontaine House Museum has been the only heritage attraction open in the neighborhood. Now that there is a renaissance happening in the area, it is important that we pay tribute to this enduring institution. Their achievements have been great by any standard, but even more so when one realizes that this is an all-volunteer organization that has been operating strictly on funding from the private sector."

**Peggy Lovell**, president of the Shelby County Chapter, accepted the Preservation Cup on behalf of the organization, noting the legacy of early preservationists like Mrs. Eleanor Hughes and Eldridge Wright. "We are an organization that was created to preserve our heritage; we now have become part of history ourselves," Lovell said. "We are already looking ahead to the next half century and looking for dedicated volunteers of all ages who share our mission and vision."



*Sincere congratulations go to Peggy Lovell, President of the Shelby County Chapter. Peggy received the 2010 Preservation Award for the work of APTA over the past fifty years in maintaining the James Lee Memorial Properties. Scott Blake of the Victorian Village Community Development Corporation presented the award.*



### **Woodruff-Fontaine House Easter Egg Hunt**

The **Woodruff-Fontaine House Easter Egg Hunt** was a huge success with over 100 people enjoying the beautiful weather. After carefully hiding all the eggs, the Easter Bunny was on hand to greet the little ones. The day also included a small animal petting zoo and a Tiny Tea in the Carriage House featuring cookies and lemonade. The Adams Avenue Camerata, a men's singing group, ended the successful day with a concert.

## NASHVILLE CHAPTER



DERBY WEEK AT THE PLANTATION

**Derby Week** kicked off spring at Belle Meade Plantation in true Southern tradition on Sunday, April 25. Beginning with a Jazz Brunch, featuring The Joe Turley Quartet, patrons dined on delicious fare while enjoying some of the finest jazz talent Nashville has to offer.

The **10th Annual Entirely Entertaining** event was held on April 29 under a bright spring tent in the historic Back Paddock at the Belle Meade Plantation. For the event designing women (and men) created their own table designs using clever themes. For the first time this year, professional designers were invited to participate. The professional need not rest on their laurels, though. Southern ladies know how to set a table.



Partygoers can Run for the Roses at the **2nd Annual Kentucky Derby Party** at the plantation on May 1. Enjoy the day without the crowds, sipping mint juleps and fine Kentucky bourbons and Tennessee whiskeys while dancing to the music of Sons of

the Beach. Big screens will feature the day's racing at Churchill Downs. White linen suits and beautiful hats are a must for the day.



### *Tea and Jane Austen Book Club*

Lovers of Jane Austen have been enjoying the **Tea and Jane Austen Book Club**. The gathering began with a lovely afternoon tea and a talk by tea expert Cynda Pierce. Cynda is a former president of the Norfolk Tea Society. She has spoken across the Southeast on the history of tea and tea preparation. Cynda's presentation included a brief history of tea, practical tips for brewing,



and tea customs in Jane Austen's day. A typical afternoon tea of three courses—sweet, savory and scone—was followed by an evening tour of the mansion. The club meets at 4:00 p.m. on the last Saturday of the

month in the mansion. Books still to be read and discussed include *Northanger Abbey*, May 29; *Persuasion*, June 26; and *Lady Susan*, July 31. More books and discussions are being planned.

### *Fun Summer Camps at Belle Meade*

If you want a happy camper at your house this summer, Belle Meade Plantation has plenty of options. Over 350 children have signed up for the camps being offered, so you'll have to hurry. For the little ones there is the ever-popular **Indian Camp** with its full-size tipi. Campers will learn about Native American culture through games, crafts, storytelling and nature. Horse lovers will enjoy **Equine Camp**. This camping experience is designed to give beginners the confidence to be with and respect horses. Young people with a strong interest in history and museums will be given a "behind the scenes" look at how museums work at **Junior Docent Camp**. Young Civil War buffs will have the opportunity to take leadership roles in a Civil War company in **Civil War Camp**, while your future Indiana Jones digs for the past at **Archeology Camp**. One-day educational opportunities for kids include Slave Life at Belle Meade Plantation, 100 Years of History, Everyday Life on the Frontier, and Everyday Life on the Plantation.



Equine Camp



Junior Docent Camp



Civil War Camp



Archeology Camp

## MAURY COUNTY CHAPTER

The **Girls School at The Athenaeum Rectory** in Columbia is the subject of a documentary film entitled "Southern Belle." Cathy Conkwright and Mary Makley of MakeWright Films have produced a long form documentary on the Athenaeum Girls School that was shown at the Nashville Film Festival. The film is scheduled on PBS this fall. Cathy, a native Nashvillian, saw an article on the school in an issue of the *Tennessee Farm Bureau* magazine. Now studying in New York, Cathy realized that there were not enough films about the South and southern



history coming from the communities themselves. She and Mary contacted APTA and the Athenaeum regarding the documentary and filming began in 2008.



The film addresses Cathy and Mary's question of why young women in 2008 would be interested in dressing up like characters from "Gone With The Wind." The two women were met by a group of endearing girls, excited to learn the valuable, strong southern codes of behavior associated with manners and proper etiquette. The film takes no position, but depicts exactly what happened the week of The Girls School. It attempts to show a true piece of history, including what is now considered politically incorrect in today's society.

The two filmmakers hope *Southern Belle* will open dialogues, not only regarding what was taking place in 1861, but what is now happening across the country.

This summer The Girls School will hold its twentieth session. A reunion of former students along with Jackson Cadets, other escorts and host families is planned for September. The school will also host a Ladies Weekend for the many women who have expressed an interest in attending The Girls School.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

The **Glenmore Garden Market** is held each year on the first Saturday in May to celebrate the opening of the tour season at Glenmore Historical Mansion in Jefferson City. The Garden Market vendors will sell plants, flowers, and other garden-related items from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Along with Tennessee strawberries grown on a local farm, Glenmore members and friends will sell plants and cuttings as well. A Tea Time Tent at the market will serve lunch including "made from scratch" strawberry shortcake. Tours of the mansion will be available on the hour and the Dolltown Gift Shop will be open.

Glenmore Mansion is open for tours on weekends from May through October. All proceeds from the Glenmore Garden Market will be used for further restoration of the 1869 Second Empire Victorian mansion.

## "The General" will be auctioned at the APTA Annual Meeting

An autographed print of LeRoy Neiman's "The General" will be among the items at the APTA

Annual Meeting. The original painting is owned by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation who commissioned LeRoy Neiman in



2006 and now hangs on display in the West Tennessee Regional Arts Center in Humboldt, TN.

Mr. Neiman will be 89 on June 8. The upcoming sale of the original painting will endow the LeRoy Neiman Endowment for the Arts at the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation. There were a limited number of 50 prints signed by Mr. Neiman. The print will be displayed in a temporary frame so that the purchaser will be able to frame to suit their tastes. Unique to Tennesseans, this print will increase in value over the years.

Other items to be auctioned include a set of pewter plates, a Victorian stained glass window and a Falls Mill gift basket.

## In Memoriam

APTA mourns the loss of one of its strongest members, **Alice Algood** from Columbia. A Maury County native, Alice was a seventh generation Tennessean. Devoted to historical preservation, Alice served as president of APTA and the Tennessee State Museum Foundation. She was a member of the Tennessee Historic Commission, the Tennessee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and was chairman of the Tennessee Governor's Executive Residence Foundation.

A fine example of the strong Southern woman, Alice believed that the Founding Fathers provided the citizens of the United States a system of good governance and stood by her convictions. She shared her love of history and genealogy with all who sought her assistance. She was instrumental in the donation of the Athenaeum Rectory to APTA.

APTA will be ever grateful to Alice Algood for her dedication, perseverance and wisdom.

# Calendar of Events

- April 29..... **“Entirely Entertaining,”** Belle Meade Plantation  
April 30-May 1 ..... **Ladies Weekend,** The Athenaeum  
May 1 ..... **Kentucky Derby Party,** Belle Meade Plantation  
May 4-October 30..... **Crockett Tavern** Open for Tours Tuesday through Saturday  
May 15 ..... **Buchanan Log House Antiques Appraisal Fair**  
May 15 ..... **Hardeman County Chapter APTA Tasting Home Tour**  
May 15 ..... **Buchanan Log House Appraisal Fair**  
May 17 ..... **APTA Executive Committee Meeting,** Belle Meade Plantation

Tuesday, May 18.....10:00am **APTA Annual Meeting,** Belle Meade Plantation  
Please remember to RSVP by May 12 to  
615-352-8247 or [apta1951@bellsouth.net](mailto:apta1951@bellsouth.net).

- May 21 ..... **Buchanan Log House Spring Fish Fry & Silent Auction**  
May 29 ..... **Statehood Day**  
June 4 ..... **Fourth Annual Golf Tournament,** Belle Meade Plantation  
June 13 ..... **Buchanan Log House Annual Membership Meeting**  
June 19 ..... **Candle-lit Evening in the Garden,** Buchanan Log House  
June 19-20..... **Civil War Living History Weekend,** Ramsey House Plantation  
June 22 ..... **Crockett Family Presentation**  
July 10-16..... **Athenaeum Girls School**  
July 31 ..... **APTA Board of Directors Meeting,** Belle Meade Plantation  
August 14..... **Davy Crockett’s 224 Birthday Celebration,** Crockett Tavern  
September 10 ..... **Fall Fest Antique Preview Party,** Belle Meade Plantation  
September 11-12..... **Belle Meade Plantation Fall Fest**  
September 25 ..... **National Museum Day**  
October 1 ..... **Buchanan Log House Tours**  
October 2 ..... **Pioneer Family Walk,** Buchanan Log House  
October 23-24..... **Mountain Makin’s,** Rose Center, Morristown  
October 30 ..... **APTA Board of Directors Meeting,** Belle Meade Plantation  
October 31 ..... **Community Trick-or-Treat,** Belle Meade Plantation  
November 6-December 31... **A Victorian Christmas with the Jackson Family - 1883,** Belle Meade Plantation  
November 28 ..... **Decorate the Buchanan Log House for the Holidays**

The Cabin Quilters at the Buchanan Log House meet every Thursday at 10:00 in the Addison House at the Buchanan Log House. All those interested in quilting are invited to join them.

## Get the Latest on the APTA Website

Remember to check the APTA website, [www.theapta.org](http://www.theapta.org), to learn about all the events taking place at our properties.



## APTA Annual Meeting

The APTA Annual Meeting will be held **Tuesday, May 18** in the Carriage House at the Belle Meade Plantation at 10:00 a.m. Our speaker this year is **Mary Pearce** from the Heritage Foundation. Mary will speak on forming

coalitions with businesses and other organizations to benefit historic preservation.

Mary Pearce has been executive director of the Heritage for 22 years. The Heritage Foundation is a countywide historic preservation non-profit with over 900 individual, family and business memberships. The organization is headquartered in the historic Five Points Post Office. The current "flagship" project of the Heritage Foundation is Save the Franklin Theatre.

Mary's work in historic preservation has resulted in her being named the Review Appeal Person of the Year in 2000, Nashville Business Journal "Top Twenty Movers and Shakers" in 2006 and awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Tennessee Historical Commission. In 2007. Mary was named VIP Woman of the Year. In 2008, Mary and the Heritage Foundation were awarded a Certificate of Honor from the National Trust for Historic Preservation—this was the only local non-profit recognized for one of the 12 awards.

We think you will find Mary's talk interesting and beneficial to your chapters. Belle will provide a special boxed lunch, and of course there will be the auction. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Please remember to RSVP by **May 12**.

## APTA Board of Directors Meetings In 2010

**Monday, May 17**

1:30 p.m., Education Room  
Belle Meade Plantation

**Tuesday, May 18**

Annual Membership Meeting, 10:00 a.m.,  
Carriage House, Belle Meade Plantation

**Saturday, July 31**

10:00 a.m., Education Room  
Belle Meade Mansion

**Saturday, October 30**

10:00 a.m., Education Room  
Belle Meade Mansion

**Mission Statement**  
The Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA) promotes and encourages active participation in the preservation of Tennessee's rich historic, cultural, architectural and archeological heritage through restoration, education, advocacy and statewide cooperation.

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES**  
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