



News and Notes About Monticello

Passageway restoration. The restoration of the rubble-stone walls of the all-weather passageway that links the house and the North Dependencies is nearly complete. Major work on the 70-foot-long passageway's northeast wall – which includes the straightening, restoration, and partial reconstruction of the wall, plus the building of a below-ground retaining wall – will be finished before the end of the year. The final re-pointing of the passage side of the walls is scheduled for completion over the winter. The West Lawn side of the passageway was restored in 2005, and the 113-foot-long wall that forms the rear of the stables and carriage house under the North Terrace was restored in 2004. Support for this critical three-year initiative has come from the Roy R. Charles Charitable Trust; Robert H. Smith; The 1772 Foundation; The Roller-Bottimore Foundation; Thomas F. Jeffress Memorial, Inc.; and Forbes Reback.

Parkway parking. A new parking lot for users of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway is scheduled for completion before the end of the year. This 50-space lot in a lightly wooded area near the intersection of Routes 53 and 20 will supplement the limited parking currently available at the parkway's Kemper Park entrance. The “overflow” lot is located on the side of Route 53 opposite the linear park but will connect with the Saunders-Monticello Trail by an already-built passageway under the highway. Vehicle access to the new lot will be from Route 20.

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New trustee. Sonja L. Hoel of San Francisco, a managing director of Menlo Ventures, a Menlo Park, Calif.-based venture capital firm, has joined the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Board of Trustees. A native of Charlottesville, she holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Virginia and an M.B.A. from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration.

Biennial gathering. The 2006 Historic Plants Symposium, "Great Gardeners, Great Plants," attracted 85 participants. The biennial event conducted by the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, held Sept. 15-16, featured six talks in addition to tours and receptions at Monticello and CHP's Tufton headquarters. Among the "Great Gardeners" discussed during the symposium were Philadelphia aristocrat William Hamilton, botanist John Custis, garden writer Elizabeth Lawrence, artisan William Faris, and rose enthusiasts Ethelyn Keays and Léonie Bell.

Partners program. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation has entered into partnership agreements with eight Charlottesville-area lodging establishments – the Best Western Cavalier Inn, Boar's Head Inn, Comfort Inn-Monticello, DoubleTree Hotel Charlottesville, Keswick Hall, Residence Inn by Marriott, Omni Charlottesville Hotel, and the Bed and Breakfast Association of Virginia Central Region – and 19 area wineries that are members of the Jeffersonian Grape Growers Society and its Monticello Wine Trail. Under the Monticello Preferred Partners program, the Foundation is engaged with the hotels and wineries in conducting and developing both cooperative and reciprocal marketing and promotional initiatives, including package deals.

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