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Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens

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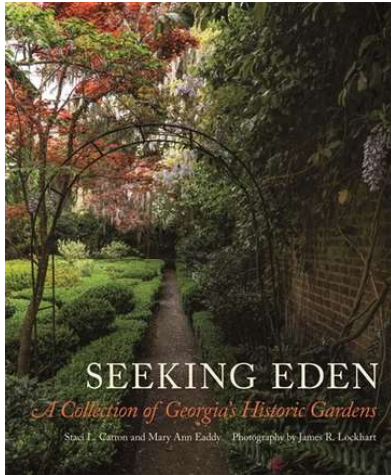
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BOOK REVIEWS

Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens. Staci L. Catron and Mary Ann Eaddy. Photography by James R. Lockhart. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8203-5300-5 (hardcover: alk. paper) \$49.95. 471p.



This stunning success on gardens and beautiful buildings and mansions of Georgia consists of Contents, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Andrew Low House and Garden, Savannah, Ashland Farm, Flintstone, Barnsley Gardens, Adairsville, Barrington Hall and Bulloch Hall, Roswell, Battersby-Hartridge Garden, Savannah, Beech Haven, Athens, Berry College: Oak Hill and House o' Dreams, Mount Berry, Bradley Olmsted Garden, Columbus, Cator Woolford Gardens, Atlanta, Coffin-Reynolds Mansion, Sapelo Island, Dunaway Gardens, Newnan vicinity, Governor's Mansion, Atlanta, Hills and Dales Estate, LaGrange, Lullwater Conservation Garden, Atlanta, Millpond Plantation, Thomasville vicinity, Oakton, Marietta, Rock City Gardens, Lookout Mountain, Salubrity Hall, Augusta, Savannah Squares, Savannah, Stephenson-Adams-Land Garden, Atlanta, Swan House, Atlanta, University of Georgia: North Campus, the President's House and Garden, and the Founders Memorial Garden, Athens, Valley View, Cartersville vicinity, Wormsloe and Wormsloe State Historic Site, Savannah vicinity, Zahner-Slick Garden, Atlanta, Appendix, Notes, Bibliography, and Index. The work's content discusses lovely gardens, mansions, and buildings of Georgia. Staci Catron is Cherokee Garden Library Director at Atlanta History Center Kenan Research Center. Mary Ann Eaddy was Technical Services head and aide to the Director of Georgia Department of Natural Resources of Historic Preservation Division. The gorgeous photographs are from James R. Lockhart who was a photographer for the Georgia Historic Preservation Division. The writing style is articulate, clear, eloquent, and easy to read.

The forty-three page Appendix List and Status of Gardens Documented through the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative from *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933*

reveals approximately one hundred fifty-five gardens and accompanying mansions and structures by county and city, the times gardens, constructions, and houses commenced, and a few important details about the gardens, mansions, and constructions. Delightfully and marvelously useful for sightseers the Appendix discloses which gardens, places, and homes allow visitors. The wonderful picturesque book notes the locales that are in the National Register of Historic Places. The bibliography consists of two hundred six references. Four intriguing lists include "Plants Grown by Alice Hand Callaway That are Still Cultivated at the Hills and Dales Estate," "Plants Grown by Sarah Coleman Ferrell That are Still Cultivated at the Hills and Dales Estate," "Rock City Gardens Historic Plant List," and "H.W. Stephenson Residence, Partial Planting List, 1931." The introduction shows the history of Georgia and the history of gardens and garden clubs of Georgia.

Around three hundred eighty bright vividly colorful photographs astound readers with the gorgeous loveliness of the gardens, mansions, and constructions. Each picture has a concise description. The work has two maps and eleven drawings of the gardens. Charming scenic decorations in the gardens include stone lanterns, benches, stone bridges, gazebos, sundials, reflecting ponds, stone paths, sunken gardens, terraces, greenhouses, catfish ponds, blue peacocks, teahouses, pergolas, Doric columns, waterfalls, wooden bridge, amphitheaters, fountains, statues, Ionic columns, Corinthian columns, fishing, tennis courts, parterre, courtyards, marble columns, bay windows, and white stucco. Dazzling picturesque flora comprise laurel, Japanese cherry trees, dogwoods, magnolias, petunias, lilies of the valley, English ivy, Lady Banks Roses, Japanese maples, ferns, azaleas, tea olives, Camellias, roses, crape myrtles, Ginkgo, pomegranate, rhododendron, gardenias, daffodils, tulips, wisteria, hydrangea, and boxwoods. Interestingly, Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low of beautiful Andrew Low House and Garden in Savannah, Georgia established the United States Girl Scouts. Atlanta's Beautiful Swan House with a grand fountain that cascades was brought into play in the movies *Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2*. Beautiful Hills and Dales Estate of LaGrange is a gorgeous Italian villa with beautiful gardens of foliage and boxwood saying "God is Love" and "God" and gorgeous fountains maintained from the 1800's. The recommendation for audience is researchers and people looking for information and complete histories on Georgia's spectacular gardens, impressive structures, and gorgeous houses.

The book is highly recommended for public and academic libraries.

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