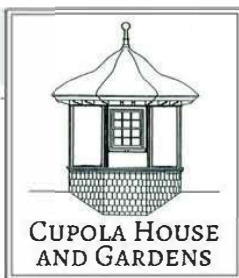


The Cupola House
Association, Inc.



Spring 2024
Volume 3, Number 1



The Cupola House Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: VONNA O'NEILL

The Cupola House Colors Our World...A Marvelous Miracle

I often wonder if those brave souls in 1918 who saved the Cupola House and eventually were able to raise enough money to purchase the accompanying land, could imagine the beginnings of a miracle. With the first-floor woodwork already removed and the front and back doors soon to follow, it would have been easy to have given up the dream of saving it for generations to come. World War I had just ended, and many people were struggling to put their own homes back in order. Food was scarce and many homes needed paint and maintenance; a deadly flu epidemic was sweeping the country.

Out of this, the miracle of the Cupola House gave people hope as it became the first Library in the region along with a cheerful tea room. It was the place to greet your neighbors and enrich the imagination as stories spilled out of the books on the shelves.

That miracle continues yet today, thanks to many dedicated volunteers who continue to make the Cupola House a very special place. Thanks to dedicated Cupola House Gardeners, there has been plethora flowers blooming on the property. Anemonies, tulips, Cherokee roses, poppies, Lenten roses and a host of others as well as lovely herbs greet visitors on a daily basis.

Other volunteers serve as Board Members as officers and on a host of committees to maintain the house and grounds, provide Member events, the Speaker Series, Social Media, protect and preserve our archives, train our wonderful docents and work to keep us financially viable (see the list of your Board Members).

Then we have a group of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to produce the biannual **"Easels in the Gardens" set for April 26th and April 27th**. They have exceeded every goal that was set. The dynamic duo heading up the team for 2024 is **Carrey Stegall and Debbie Cameron**. You may be called upon by members of their team to help host our guests and provide the unmatched, "Edenton Hospitality Experience" so be sure to participate.

Einstein said: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." In my view, the Cupola House is the epitome of the latter statement. Thank you for being a member of a perpetual miracle!

See the Calendar of upcoming Tours and Events. We are now open for guided tours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, which can be arranged through the Barker House.

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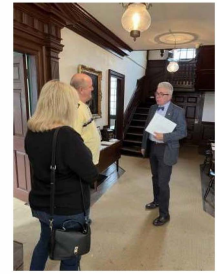
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye!

This quote by Margaret Mead could not more aptly describe those ten citizens in 1918 who stepped in to make a change before a piece of history was lost forever. The newly formed Cupola House Association has, over the last more than 100 years, lovingly restored and cared for what became a National Historic Landmark — seeing many changes along the way. These same citizens, too, strived to tell the story of this special place, often on a volunteer basis to enhance the paid tours offered by the State Historic Sites Visitor Center. That latter relationship, unfortunately, has ended and our organization has moved forward with a change in our tour offerings. Tickets are

now sold through the Penelope Barker House Welcome Center and tour times coincide with the Trolley Tours. We now have a part time paid docent, Jonathan Tobias, who has taken on the weekend tours. Although



this means that our Sunday tours are no longer free (but donations accepted) and staffed by volunteers, this doesn't mean that we don't appreciate our group of dedicated docent volunteers and their faithful leader, Ken Hoke, who is stepping down from this role! We still need volunteers! Like most of us, Jonathan will occasionally be unavailable and large group tours will need more than one docent. The CHA Board encourages any current volunteer docent to fill in and be paid in Jonathan's absence. If you are interested in joining the docent group, please reach out to Russell Corker at :

rcorker@corkerlaw.com

We are now open for tours Friday, Saturday and Sunday!!

SPRING 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 2024

- 3/5: Speaker Series
- 3/7: CHA Board Meeting
- 3/14: Irish Beer Garden
- 3/26: Bridge Luncheon

April 2024

- 4/2: Speaker Series,
- 4/11: Group Tour for 30**
CHA Board Meeting
- 4/26: Easels in the Garden
CH closed to tours
- 4/27: Easels in the Garden
CH closed to tours

May 2024

- 5/7 : Speaker Series
- 5/9: CHA Board Meeting
- 5/16: Group Tour for 20**
- 5/24: 250th Tea

June 2024

- 6/13: CHA Board Meeting

**** Indicates private, fee-based requested tours for special interest groups. While these tours require Cupola House Association resources and knowledgeable tour guides, they are not open either to the public or to our membership and we have to suspend other tours during that time. We are a viable resource to the community and a visit to Edenton is not complete without seeing the Cupola House and Gardens.**

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!!




Tour of Private Gardens in Historic Edenton, NC

Easels in the Gardens

April 26-27, 2024
10:00 am - 4:00 pm


Private Gardens
Historic Public Gardens, including newly opened Hayes Garden
Plein-Air Artists On-Site
Art in Bloom Exhibit
Artists' Paintings for Sale
Garden Party
Boogie on Broad

Proceeds benefit the Historic 1758 Cupola House and Gardens



CUPOLA HOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.

2024 Speaker Series



February 6, 2024

"A PHOENIX RISING: KADESH AME ZION CHURCH"

- ❖ **DAWSON TYLER**
Founder, Down East Preservation
- ❖ **SADDIE RIDDICK**
EHC Board Member and Kadesh Restoration Committee

March 5, 2024

"HIDDEN TREASURES AT THE CUPOLA HOUSE"

- ❖ **MARTHA SMITH**
Cupola House Association Board Member
- ❖ **LOCATION: 1758 Cupola House**
- ❖ **TIME: 5 pm**

April 2, 2024

"HAYES: FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY"

- ❖ **ROBERT LEATH**
Executive Director, Edenton Historical Commission
- ❖ **LOCATION: Shepard-Pruden Library**
- ❖ **TIME: 5 pm**


May 7, 2024

"WE CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT: THE REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN OF EIGHTEENTH CENTURY EDENTON"

- ❖ **ROBERT LEATH**
Executive Director, Edenton Historical Commission
- ❖ **LOCATION: Shepard-Pruden Library**
- ❖ **TIME: 5:30 pm**

A MEMBER RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW ALL PRESENTATIONS PLACE: 1758 CUPOLA HOUSE

LIMITED SEATING -- RSVP STRONGLY ADVISED

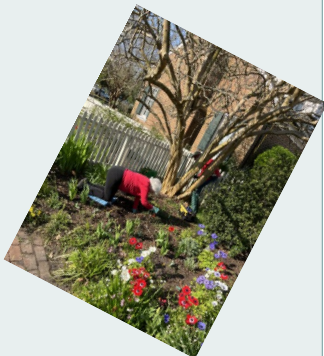


Please scan QR code to sign up.

Note the time change for the last in our Spring Speaker Series!!



NEWS FROM THE CUPOLA HOUSE GARDENS BY: RUSSELL CORKER



Have you ever wanted to be a gardener, but didn't think you knew how or where to begin? Did you ever want to be an important part of your community by volunteering? Did you ever want to meet new, interesting and friendly people? Did you ever want to be a part of history? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you should become a member of the Cupola House Wednesday Weeders. No experience is necessary, and the rewards are great.

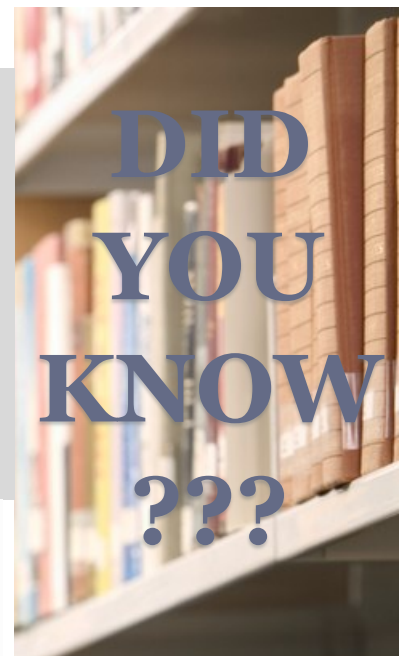
The Cupola House is considered by some experts to be the most significant historic structure in Colonial Era North Carolina. Francis Corbin, land agent for Lord Granville, purchased Lot One and its "Houses Buildings and Gardens" from Thomas Barker on April 19, 1756. The 1769 Sauthier map of Edenton appears to show garden plots in the front part of the property. The current gardens were initially planted in 1976 following a sight design prepared by a Colonial Williamsburg landscape architect using plants that would be appropriate for the Colonial Era. Volunteer gardeners, known as the "Wednesday Weeders," have maintained the gardens ever since.

When Spring arrives in March, the "Weeders" will begin tending the gardens. In the fall of 2023, 1930 flower bulbs were planted as the last major act of the season. Many of these beautiful flowers will be in bloom, and the entire garden will be alive with the coming of Spring. Over the course of the coming growing season, all the tasks of maintaining a garden will keep the gardeners very busy. Weeding, trimming bushes and trees, planting new plants, transplanting, deadheading, and many other gardening chores will be carried out. New volunteers will now officially become a "gardener." One need not be concerned about how much they know about gardening because there is always someone to show you what to do. Many of the Weeders are experienced gardeners and have been working in the Cupola Garden for years, so there is a great deal that can be learned.

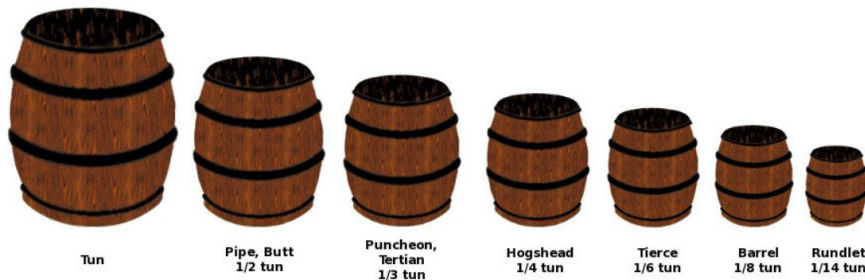
The Weeders come from all walks of life and from many different places, all sharing the love of being out in a garden. There is not a friendlier group of people in Edenton. It is not all work, either. The atmosphere is very supportive, and lively conversations go hand in hand with the gardening. Many new friendships have begun in the Cupola Gardens. If someone cannot make it one day, not a problem. People come and go as they please without issue, and everyone's efforts are appreciated, regardless of how often or how long someone can work. It is fun and educational to be around so many good gardeners. There is always someone who can give helpful advice for issues involving your own garden. It is rewarding to see people having a good time walking through the garden while you are working, knowing that you are helping to make Edenton a better place to live and to visit. By working with so many good gardeners, we all become better gardeners. Working in a team has its rewards. The season runs through November, and then we are off until the following March.

So put on your gloves and gardening clothes and come on down to the Cupola House gardens beginning the last week in March at 9 am. We work to about noon. Be a part of history, help our community, become a better gardener, but most of all, make great friends and have fun. I hope to see in the garden.

In reviewing shipping records of the 1700s and 1800s found in the Cupola House papers, it was noted that merchants in Edenton traded much further afield than one would think. There are shipping notes and correspondences between Edenton and New York, New Jersey, Charleston, many islands in the West Indies, and with England, Spain, and the Netherlands. Review of these records revealed there are several terms of measurement used that are not commonly used today. Looking them up in Merriam-Webster reveals:



By Martha Smith



Barrel, while continuing to be used today as a container of wine, was a hollow cylindrical container with a bulging center, longer than it was wide, traditionally made of wood and bound by metal or wooden hoops. Depending on the weight of its contents, a barrel held from 31 to 55 gallons.

A **cask** was a somewhat smaller version of a barrel, used to hold liquids, and was sometimes used synonymously with a barrel. But, in the words of ASW Distillery, “all barrels are casks, but not all casks are barrels.”

A **firkin** was a small barrel usually holding $\frac{1}{4}$ the amount of a barrel.

A **keg** was a small cask, used to transport nails, gunpowder as well as a variety of liquids.

A **puncheon** was a larger barrel, holding upwards to 132 gallons of liquid.

A **pipe** was a large cask of varying capacity used especially for wine and oil.

A **hogshead** was a large barrel holding between 63 – 140 gallons of liquid. In Colonial times, rather than liquid, it

was used mostly to transport tightly packed tobacco leaves. Additionally, the papers indicated that it was also used to transport flour and corn meal locally.

Also, for dry measurements:

A **peck** was a dry measurement equal to 8 quarts.

A **bushel** was a dry measurement equal to 4 pecks, or 32 quarts.

A **cord** was a unit of wood cut for fuel equal to a stack 4x4x8 feet or 128-cubic feet.

While some of these terms are familiar to us, others seem to have vanished from our vocabularies.



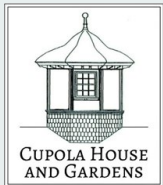
The Cupola House is a historic house museum in Edenton, North Carolina. Built in 1756-1758, it is the second oldest building in Edenton, and the only known surviving example in the American South of a "jutting" or overhanging second floor. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1970. [Wikipedia](#)

CUPOLA HOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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