Fall 2005

Friends of Dacus Library

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Noted French Botanist Returns to Carolinas After 220 Years
Friends of Dacus Sponsors Famous Man Who Discovered Magnolia Tree

Perhaps the headline for this story is a stretch, but after you see the performance of André Michaux, aka Charles Williams, you are certain to believe that you have indeed witnessed the return of one of the world's foremost botanists. Charlie Williams, complete in period costume which Michaux would have worn in his travels throughout the Carolinas in late 18th century, will present his one-man show in Rock Hill as an event of the Jubilee: Harvest of the Arts festival. The program, "Meet André Michaux, The Botanist and Explorer," is free to the public and no ticket or reservation is necessary.

The event will be in the second floor courtroom of the old Federal Courthouse building, currently known as the Gettys Center on Friday, September 30, at 7pm. The old courtroom is accessible by stairs and an elevator. Parking is free in downtown Rock Hill on street, at city parking lots, the city parking deck, and in the lots of various nearby churches.

No less than the esteemed late Carolina traveler, Charles Kuralt, proclaimed, "His name was André Michaux, and we should all remember his name for he was one of the most remarkable human beings of the 18th century, or of any century." Kuralt's estimation is quoted in the equally remarkable book edited by none other than Charlie Williams, himself a well-traveled Carolinian. Memoirs of the Life and Botanical Travels of André Michaux is a product of the Michaux Bicentennial of 2002 at which Williams was presented the Medal of Rambouillet for his dedication to the study of the life of the most famous botanist of his time. The Memoir includes a fascinating itinerary of Michaux's travels through the Piedmont, especially Mecklenburg, York, and Lancaster counties. According to the chronology, Michaux traveled through Lancaster County in "search of a strayed horse," which he found thanks to the hospitality of one Mr. Lee. Michaux crossed the Catawba River at Lands Ford (now of course, Landsford Canal State Park, SC), and he crossed the Catawba again at the NC/SC state line near the present site of Stowe Botanical Gardens.

Mr. Williams, a NC native, retired after 34 years with the public library in Charlotte. His appearance in costume, an interpretation of André Michaux, is sponsored by Friends of Dacus Library. For additional information about this event, contact Gale Teaster-Woods, Program Chair, Friends of Dacus, at 323-2311, or at 328-3236. (See page 2, inside, for a related story about the Annual Meeting of Friends of Dacus to be held prior to the Michaux presentation.)
Second Literary Luncheon a Success

Friends of Dacus hosted its second “local literary luncheon,” on Saturday, April 9, 2005. Held at the Rock Hill Country Club, the event featured poets and fiction writers from the Rock Hill and York County area. Jack Boger, retired Dean from Winthrop’s College of Education, read poetry about his early days in Virginia and his time in the Navy. Judith Aplin shared her poetry about her family, especially her children. Two fiction writers, Misty Massey and Kay McSpadden, kept the audience alert and entertained with stories about down home life in South Carolina. With a brand new book of poems coming out soon, Evelyn Weeks, a Winthrop Instructor in English, read poems about growing up in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. Almost 70 people came for the lovely spring luncheon, all agreeing that local writers are entertaining, talented, and diverse. The event was an official program of COME SEE ME. Watch the Newsletter next spring when another literary luncheon is almost certain to be announced.

Annual Meeting of Friends, Friday September 30, 2005

The Annual Meeting of Friends of Dacus will be held immediately preceding the André Michaux program (see previous page) at 7PM, Gettys Building courtroom. The chief business of the meeting is to hear a report from the Nominating Committee for elections. The report of the Nominating Committee is given in full below.

Report of the Nomination Committee

Terms of office begin January 1, 2006. Asterisks indicate persons who have agreed to serve again in the same office. As provided in the bylaws, Earl Wilcox, outgoing chair, will serve a 1-year term on the Advisory Board in 2006.

Officers

For Vice-chair (program chair) in 2006, to become Chair in 2007, Martha Anne McFadden.

For Recording Secretary, 2006-2007, Joseph Zdenek*

For Treasurer, 2006-2007, (2 year term): Jim Johnston

Advisory Board 2006-2007 (2-year terms)

Dorothy Amick*
Sally Archer
Nancy Davidson
Polly Ford
Lib Patrick
E. Bettye Wilcox* (Newsletter Editor)

This slate of nominees will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of Friends at the 7PM gathering on Friday, September 30. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The nominating committee wishes to express sincere thanks to Hannahie Ferguson, Katie Scannell, and Polly Ford for their service to Friends through the years. Polly Ford has been Treasurer since the beginning of Friends in 1997.
Officers of Friends of Dacus

If elected at the annual meeting, the following is a complete slate of officers and Advisory board beginning January 1, 2006.

Chair, Gale Teaster-Woods (06)
Vice-chair Martha Anne McFadden (06; Chair, 07)
Corresponding Secretary Jane Allen (06)
Recording Secretary Joe Zdenek (07)
Treasurer Jim Johnston (06)

Advisory Board (Executive Committee [04-05] in caps.)**
DOROTHY AMICK (07)
Sally Archer (07)
Gloria Owens Crank (06)
Nancy Davidson (07)
Polly Ford (07)
Mary-Ann Hoffman (06)
Lynn Hornsby (06)
GLORIA KELLEY (06)
Antje Mays (06)
Clayton Owens (06)
Lib Patrick (07)
Addie Mayfield Rutledge (06)
E. Bettye Wilcox (07) [Newsletter editor]
Earl J. Wilcox (Ex-Officio, 06)

**After January 1, 2006, four members of new Advisory Board should be elected to the Executive Committee for 06-07.

A BRAND NEW LIBRARY FOR WINTHROP UNIVERSITY?

According to several published reports, a new Winthrop University library is being proposed by President DiGiorgio and the Board of Trustees. Recent statements in Alumni publications, local newspapers, and campus news outlets, suggest the new library will be built in the newly-focused inner campus in the space previously occupied by Breazeale Hall, which was demolished some months ago. The new library will thus be located near a new student life building (also proposed for future construction), and the Lois Rhyme West Fitness Center, currently under construction. When the new library is finished, according to reports, Dacus Library will be demolished, creating a spacious campus green adjacent to Oakland Avenue. The green will help the campus community and public to focus again on Withers building, which became obscured when Dacus was built in the 1960s. President DiGiorgio and the Board of Trustees have begun making a case for the new library with the state legislature in Columbia. Presently, it is not clear whether the new library will retain the name of Ida Jane Dacus, or if a new name will be chosen.
Additional Readings about André Michaux, his Era, and his Interests


