

LEOH Trip

Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens

March 9, 2022





Joseph Celestain, one of several Precinct 3 drivers who have safely and comfortably transported LEOH travelers, welcomes everyone aboard for the trip to Bayou Bend. The recent redistricting plan means future trips will be taken with drivers from Precinct 1. We will miss Joseph and the other drivers we came to know from Precinct 3!

Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens began in 1925 as 14 acres of natural woodlands and ravines, purchased by Ima Hogg and her brothers, Will and Mike, in a new neighborhood called River Oaks.



The land was bordered on two sides by a bend in Buffalo Bayou; thereafter, the estate came to be known as Bayou Bend. Ima Hogg then lived there between 1928-1965. According to Miss Hogg, the land was basically a “dense thicket”, so she set about planning the gardens even before the house was completed in 1926. Both brothers lived there briefly, before one married and moved away, and the other died.

The seven themed gardens, a terrace, and woodland ravines that she envisioned evolved primarily between 1934-1942.

In 1934, the gardens became part of the River Oaks Garden Club’s first Azalea Trail.



Bayou Bend is recognized as the first historic public garden in Texas to practice organic gardening.

Miss Hogg was a Houston civic leader and philanthropist, and over a period of 50 years, before and during the time she lived there, she collected over 2,500 rare and important examples of early American paintings and decorative arts, which are displayed in a total of 28 rooms. The collection includes items dating from 1620-1876.

In her early life, she attended the University of Texas at Austin; moved to New York City to study piano and music theory; then spent two years in Vienna studying music. When she returned to Texas, she helped establish and manage the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

Other endeavors included establishing the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health at the University of Texas; and successfully running for a seat on the Houston School Board, where she championed women and minority causes.

Miss Hogg (1882-1975) deeded her magnificent home, gardens, and collection to the Museum of Fine Arts in 1957. Bayou Bend opened to the public in 1966.



The tour began in the *Lora Jean Kilroy Visitor and Education Center*. Through some short videos and discussion, docents introduced us to the philanthropic legacy of Ima Hogg and the Hogg family. There were several displays of beautiful and historic items on view in the visitor center, such as these pictured here.



The plaque to the right describes items (partially shown here) in the display case. Information includes each object's use, the metal it is made of, and the original location and timeframe of each object.

All objects are in the Bayou Bend Collection, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Top shelf, left to right:

- 1 Jacob Hurd, American, 1702/3–1758
Cann, c. 1724–40
Silver
Boston
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 61.18
- 2 Edward Winslow, American, 1669–1753
Tankard, c. 1690–1725
Silver
Boston
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 63.71
- 3 Bartholomew Schaats, American, 1670–1758
Teapot, c. 1728–48
Silver
New York, New York
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 69.111
- 4 Joseph Richardson, Sr., American, 1711–1784
Teapot, c. 1745–75
Silver
Philadelphia
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 60.29
- 5 Benjamin Burr, American, 1729–1805
Porringer, c. 1768–88
Silver
Boston
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 56.33
- 6 Henry Lupp, American, 1760–1800
Tea Set, c. 1783–1800
Silver
New Brunswick, New Jersey
Gift of Mrs. Harry C. Hamzen, B. 66.4
- 7 Ebenezer Noyes Moulton, American, 1768–1824
Child's Cann, c. 1790
Silver
Boston
Museum purchase funded by Marie Blaine, Leslie Bucher, Sharon G. Dies, Kay English, Cheri Foslter, Catherine Ann Gassman, Patricia Holmes, Cyril Hosley, Linda Martin, Kay V. Rath, Carol Weaver, and Barbara E. Williams in memory of Lindsay Davis Weems and in honor of Dinah and Jeff Weems, B. 2018.2

Middle shelf, left to right:

- 8 Attributed to Stephen Richard, American, c. 1796–1843
Pitcher and Tray, c. 1815–39
Silver
New York, New York
Museum purchase funded by Peter R. Coneway in honor of Faye Sarofim at "One Great Night in November, 1995," B. 91.48
- 9 Samuel Kirk, American, 1793–1872
Tea and Coffee Service, 1823
Silver
Baltimore
Museum purchase funded by various donors in honor of Michael K. Brown, B. 2019.6

- 10 Fletcher & Gardiner
Pitcher, 1815
Silver
Philadelphia
Gift of Mrs. James P. Houston, Jr., in memory of Mr. James P. Houston, Jr., B. 77.16

Bottom shelf, left to right:

- 11 Ebenezer Smith, Jr., American, 1773–1848
Coffeepot, c. 1814–25
Pewter with wood
Beverly, Massachusetts
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 53.15
- 12 Attributed to Isaac Jackson, American, 1734–1807
or Robert Porter, American, d. 1785
Porringer, c. 1770–1807
Pewter
Chester County, Pennsylvania
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 53.1
- 13 Frederick Bassett, American, 1740–1800
Tankard, c. 1761–99
Pewter
New York, New York, or Hartford, Connecticut
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 60.55
- 14 Jacob Whitmore, American, 1736–1825
Cann, c. 1758–90
Pewter
Middletown, Connecticut
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 64.27
- 15 William Will, American, born Germany, 1742–1798
Tankard, c. 1764–98
Pewter
Philadelphia
Museum purchase funded by Greg Curran, Ralph Eads, Jeff Hildebrand, Bill Montgomery, and Tony Petrello at "One Great Night in November, 2016," B. 2016.6
- 16 John Taylor, American, active 1791–1813
Posnet, c. 1791–1813
Bronze
Richmond, Virginia
Museum purchase funded by Susan Neptune, B. 2010.20
- 17 Lewis Krueger, American, active 1833–c. 1852
Ladle, c. 1833–52
Pewter
Philadelphia
Museum purchase funded by Catherine Campbell Hevrdejs, B. 97.5
- 18 Peter Young, American, 1749–1813
Pair of Church Cups, c. 1775–97
Pewter
Albany, New York, or New York, New York
Gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B. 66.9



Above, Donna (and others of us who were interested in the crystal objects in a different display case) learned that what looked like a typical crystal flower vase was actually intended to hold celery sticks!



The Hogg Family, c. 1890. Left to right: Ima, Will, Tom, Jim, Mike, and Sallie, James Stephen Hogg
papers, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, DI 01436



Images of Miss Hogg



Staff greeted us as we exited the Visitor Center.



The Visitor Center is separated from the house and gardens by a suspension bridge over the bayou.

This was a fun way to begin the remainder of the tour!



Our group was split into smaller groups for the house tour. Here, our group's docent described the objects in the room. We learned that wall-to-wall rugs covered most floors.



The walls in this dining room are covered with decorative canvas.



Note the variety and beauty of the rug patterns and furniture coverings.
A harp graces one room – was it ever played to accompany a meal,
or otherwise entertain guests?





Miss Hogg acquired pieces of her collection in a variety of ways. She admired this chair while visiting someone in their home; later, the owner agreed to part ways with the chair.



Fabrics have held up well over many years, such as the patterned hand-stitched bedding to the right.



Texas was represented with a flair in this room.
Note the horned chair.







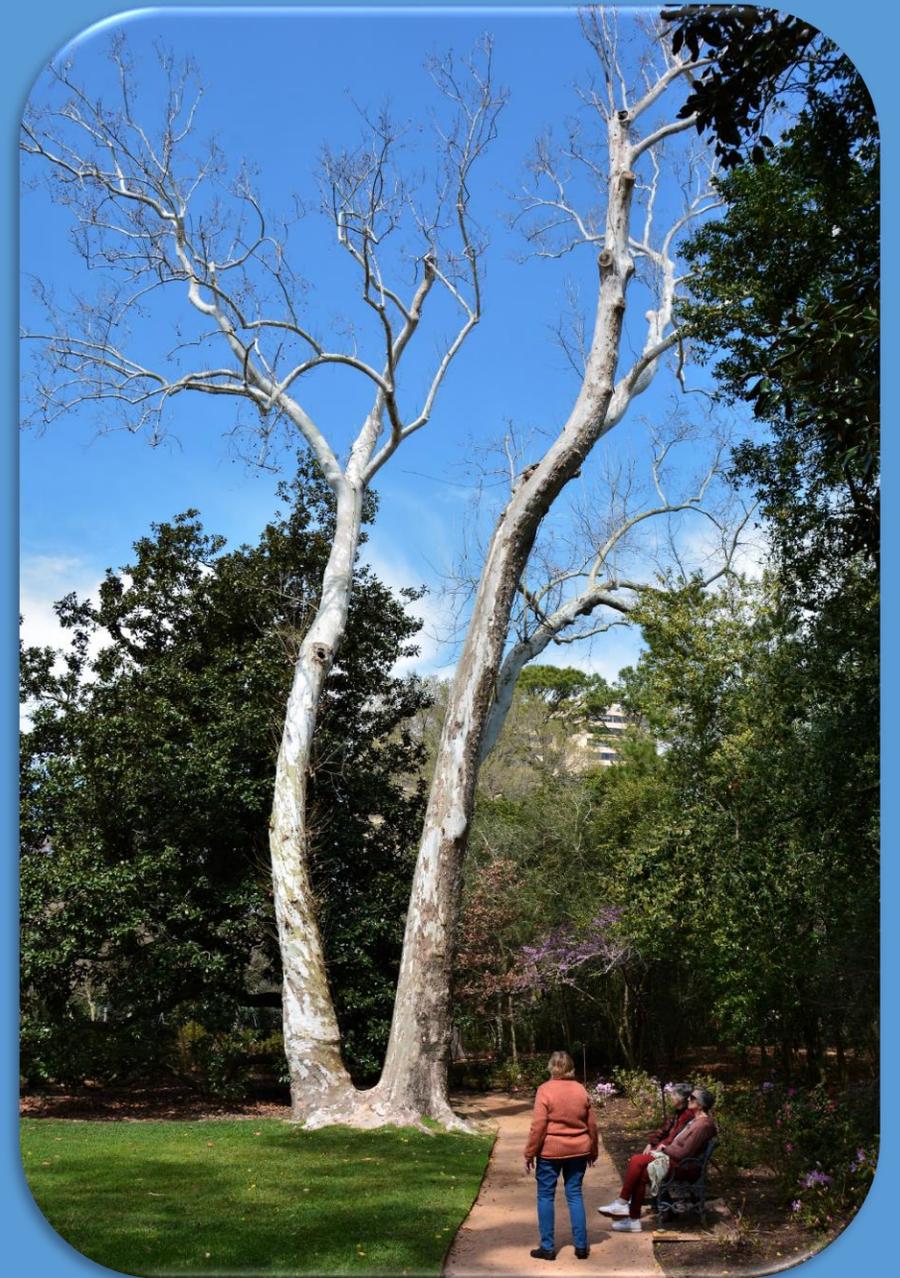


Following the house tour, we were free to roam on our own to tour the beautiful gardens and other landscaping.

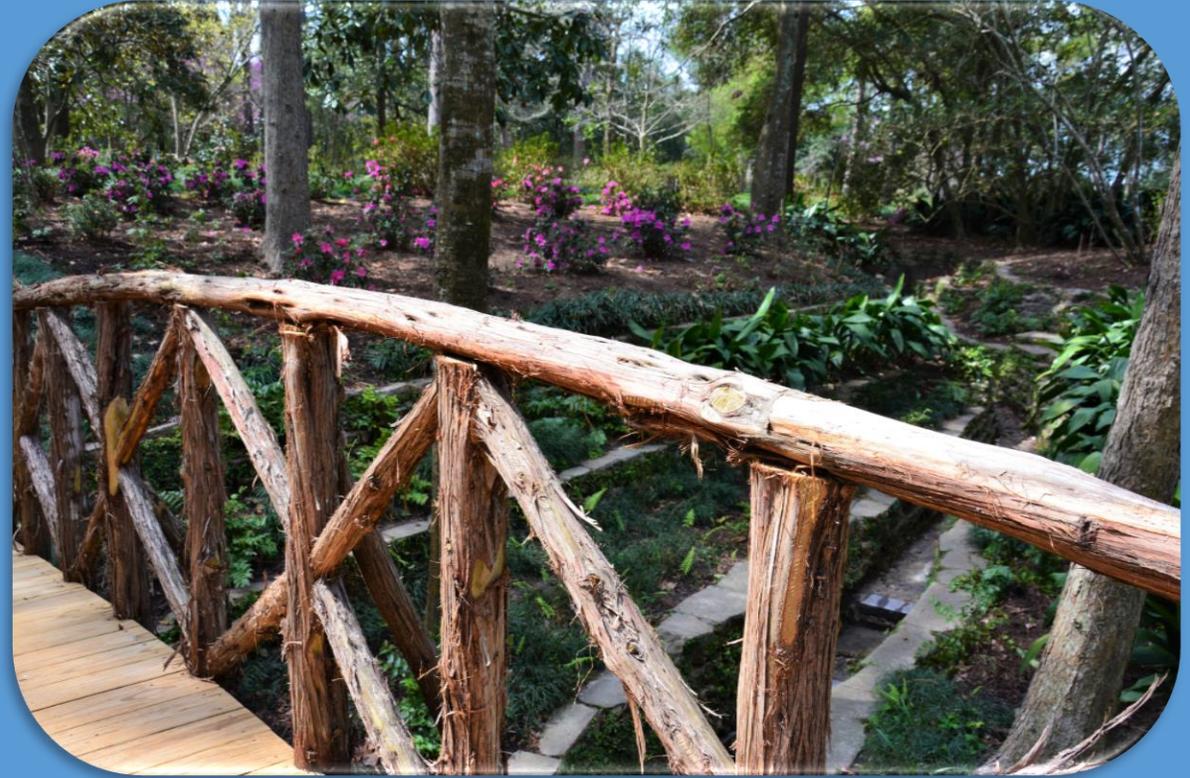




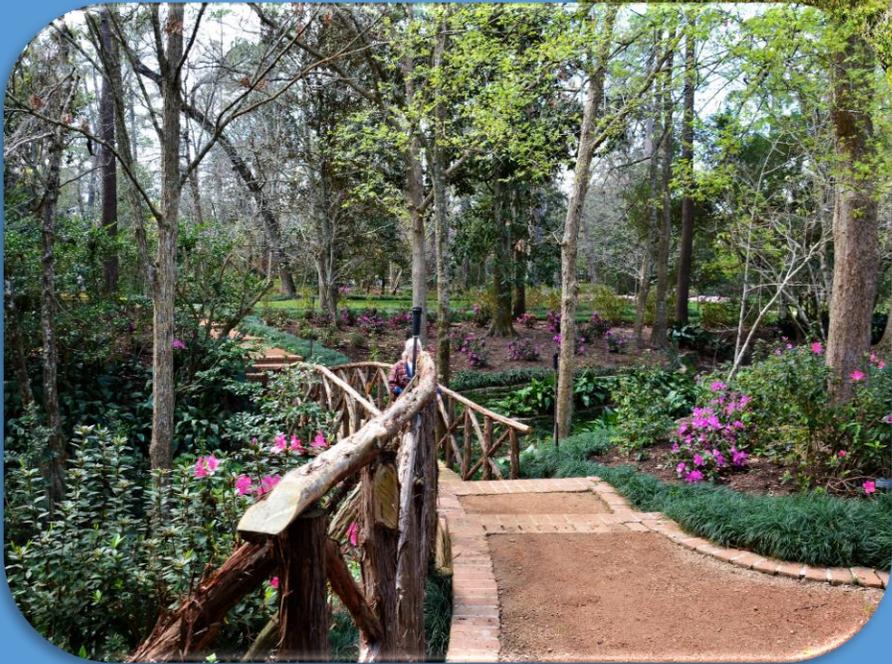




Admiring a "Champion" sycamore tree









Time to return to the bus
and head for lunch!

That meant we enjoyed crossing the
suspension bridge one last time!

*To learn much, much more, and to enjoy many
beautiful photos of the house and gardens,
a great website to visit is the following:*

mfah.org/visit/bayou-bend-collection-and-gardens

Lunch at the *Black Walnut Cafe*, before we headed back home.

