

December 1, 2011

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As 2011 comes to a close, I am pleased to report that Goodwood Museum & Gardens has made great strides this year in securing the future of this invaluable historic and cultural treasure. While challenges remain, we are emerging successfully from the difficult financial situation in which we found ourselves at this time one year ago.

In the past 12 months, Goodwood has been host to numerous community events and educational activities. Our rental facilities remain a popular venue for private events, meetings, and weddings. Thanks to our staff and dedicated garden volunteers, the grounds are kept wonderfully and numerous visitors have commented that the property has never looked better.

Generous special contributions from Goodwood supporters have enabled us to undertake needed repairs to the Main House and the other historic buildings, make improvements to the signage at the property's entrance, and establish two endowment funds that will go a long way in ensuring Goodwood's survival. Additionally, our capital campaign has generated over \$80,000 for the reduction of the debt associated with the construction of the Carriage House facility.

I am also pleased to report that, at its November meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the appointment of Andy McLeod as the new Interim Executive Director of Goodwood Museum & Gardens. He replaces Frederick Gaske, who will continue on at Goodwood as a new member of the Board of Directors and administrative volunteer. Like Fred and Coleman Brooks before him, Andy is serving without compensation, reflecting his dedication to the preservation of Goodwood. Fred and Coleman were instrumental in successfully stabilizing Goodwood's financial status for the short term, and the Board is greatly appreciative of the excellent job both did in this regard.

Andy is eminently qualified to carry on the work of his predecessors. He has extensive administrative experience with both state government agencies and non-profit organizations, most recently serving as the Director of Government Affairs for the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He also currently serves as a Board member of the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, and he and his family live in a 1927 Craftsman style house in Tallahassee's historic Lafayette Park neighborhood. We are very pleased to welcome Andy to the Goodwood team.

Despite these successes, serious financial challenges still remain. Income from facility rentals is historically low during the first few months of a calendar year until the spring when the wedding season occurs. Additional operating support is greatly needed during this period to keep Goodwood open to the public. In order to maintain the positive momentum we have accomplished this year, we hope that you will consider a year-end donation to Goodwood.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and dedicated volunteers, I thank you for your generous past support and your consideration of this request. If you would like any information regarding Goodwood, please do not hesitate to contact me. Enjoy the holidays!

Rick Barnett, Chair
Goodwood Board of Directors